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Islamic Affairs

ICO Chairman Denounces Desecration of Mosque

LD1910130289 Kuwait KUNA in English 0930 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 19 (KUNA)—H.H. the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah Thursday expressed utmost concern over the recent Israeli provocative attempts to desecrate the Al-Aqsa mosque in Holy Jerusalem and appealed to world nations and organisations to put an end to the aggression.

The amir, in his capacity as current chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), urged a firm stand and maximum pressure against the Zionist entity to stop it from committing the crime, as it has previously burnt the Al-Aqsa mosque in 1968.

In a statement today head of the 46-member OIC denounced the Zionist recent provocative attempt at [word indistinct] down the foundation stone for the so-called re-building of Temple Mount at the Al-Aqsa mosque in holy Jerusalem as a naked defiance of Islam and Muslim feelings.

'This serious precedent,' the amir of Kuwait emphasized, 'is liable to make attacks on religious sanctities a normal practice at the time all states and principles are unanimous about non-violability and preservation and respect of these sanctities.'

The OIC chairman warned that the serious attack on the Al-Aqsa mosque, one of Islam's holiest shrines, would have grave implications on the overall situation in the Arab and Muslim world, at a time collective efforts are exerted to tackle the explosive situation in the occupied Arab and Palestinian lands and to create the atmosphere conducive to realization of peace and security in the area, based on international principles guaranteeing the Palestinian people's lawful rights of statehood and regaining of their sanctities.

'In the name of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, we appeal to world nations, countries and all world organisations, topped by the United Nations, to stop this aggression and to take a firm stand and exercise all pressure to stop the Zionist entity from committing its ugly crime, as it has previously set fire to the holy Al-Aqsa mosque' the statement concluded.

Palestinian Affairs

Baghdad PLO Radio Views U.S. Policy in Mideast

First 'Episode'

JN2710103889 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1948 GMT 22 Oct 89

[First of five "episodes" of "A Review of the U.S. Political Position" carried within the "Reading of the Political Situation" feature: "Has the U.S. Position Effectively Changed?"]

[Text] Brothers, many observers confirm that the U.S. Administration's position has never been as confused, obscure, and insecure as it is now. All parties share this feeling of insecurity about the U.S. Administration's position on every cause, starting with the causes of independence and liberation and ending with the artificial games of coups [word indistinct], and passing through the world stock exchange, the value of the dollar, and the Third World debt.

This position is manifested in many colors and shapes. It is a position that pleases neither foe nor friend—not the Soviet Union nor even the banana republics in Latin America, not to mention the collapsing kingdoms and republics in the Third World, which are seeking a role for themselves, or at least a way to perpetuate themselves. Many of these kingdoms and republics, which had been playing a definite role as a result of World War II, are no longer sure about their role in view of the ambiguity of the U.S. Administration's intentions.

What does this administration want? We do not want here to tackle and follow up the overall U.S. strategy in the remote corners of this world, never mind the remotest parts of the universe. What we want here is to examine and follow up what interests us first as Palestinians, since the U.S. Administration's position influences the future of our people and our homeland, and the freedom of our country; and second, we want to examine what interests us as Arabs, since any change in the U.S. position will affect our cause.

Thus, we face the primary question: What does the U.S. Administration want? We do not want here to judge the U.S. position from within as much as we want to pinpoint the facts and place them in their proper context. We want to monitor the direction in which U.S. interests in our region are proceeding and which objectives its alliances are seeking to attain. We will do this by asking the following principal question: Has there been an effective change, or let us say, a change of direction in the policy of U.S. administrations over the past 40 years? Is there a substantial change from the U.S. Administration's position in the late 1940's, a time when it supported with all the leverage and might it could muster the

Israeli settlement and expansionist scheme? The U.S. Administration adopted this as a starting point for imposing its complete control and hegemony on the Middle East by using the spearhead called Israel. Thus, there were the four previous wars between the United States and the Arabs. The substantial change between this position and the U.S. position in the late 1980's was indicated in U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's statement that Israel must give up the dream of Greater Israel. This means a U.S. retreat from the schemes of expansion and settlement, and consequently a U.S. retreat from of the role set for Israel in previous decades, prior to searching for new roles.

Has there been a substantial change? This is what we will begin to discuss in several episodes over the next few days. Tomorrow we have a date with the second episode: Israel and the U.S. position.

Second 'Episode'

JN2710120089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1947 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Second of five "episodes" of "A Review of the U.S. Political Position" carried within the "Reading of the Political Situation" feature: "Israel and the U.S. Position: U.S. Interests and the Old Colonialist Role"]

[Text] Brothers: Much has been said and written about the prominent relationship between Israel and the United States. Perhaps no other relationship has ever been so prominent. Hence the old Arab assertion that those who fight the Israeli entity are in fact fighting those behind Israel—the United States. And hence comes the rare complexity of the Palestine question. All that is happening today is nothing but a major attempt to test the strength of this relationship. Has it relaxed to some extent or is it still as cohesive and strong as ever? Both camps—the Israeli and the Palestinian-Arab—are still at this old-new point: The Israelis fear most of all the loosening of their bonds with Washington, while the Palestinians—supported by the Arabs, albeit only with good intentions—are working to loosen these bonds. This is the essence of what is happening. For example, for the Palestinians and Israelis to sit down at one table for discussions and negotiations—that is, merely opening the file of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict for revision—would immediately signify that some relaxation of the organic strategic relationship between the United States and the Israeli entity had occurred; it would mean that the United States had changed its conception of the Middle East conflict or its conception of the role of the Israeli entity in this region.

The nature of the struggle has changed from a struggle against the U.S. presence in the Middle East, including the struggle against the existence and expansion of the U.S. tool, Israel, in the region, to a struggle against the unrealistic policy based on the Zionist illusion called Greater Israel, as U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said before a Zionist organization in the United States. The difference between the two kinds of struggle is great: The first is an old U.S. concept, employing Israeli militarism to achieve its goals in the Middle East, while the second is a new—or so we expect—U.S. concept in which the U.S. considers its interests secure and guaranteed without recourse to the Israeli military tool.

What does the absence of a U.S. need for vestiges of old colonialism such as Israel and South Africa mean? As U.S. interests throughout the African Continent are stable, secure, and guaranteed, there is no longer any need for the policy of apartheid as an old colonialist claw to impose its interests by force. By the same token, as long as U.S. interests are secure, guaranteed, and stable throughout the Middle East, then there is no need whatsoever for the policy of colonialist settlement and expansion, which causes all this anxiety—indeed, all this damage—to U.S. interests themselves; whether directly or indirectly; and whether the damage has already been done or is to come—which it definitely will as long as Washington adheres to Israel's traditional colonialist and expansionist role. This is the essence of the question, the equation.

Third 'Episode'

JN2710123889 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1944 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Third of five "episodes" of "A Review of the U.S. Political Position" carried within the "Reading of the Political Situation" feature: "U.S. Formal Maneuver and the Israeli Panic"]

[Text] Brothers, until now, the United States has not taken any measure to show the intention to change its conception of the conflict in the Middle East, or to change its conception of Israel's role.

All that has happened so far amounts to no more than studies, statements, or articles in newspapers issued by U.S. institutions. All that has happened so far is an attempt to explore the possibility of this change. It is said that Washington is still studying the impact of this change on its strategic interests.

Every now and then, a statement carrying the smell of that change will be made here or there. The dialogue Washington opened with the PLO is only a supplement to the studies Washington is conducting.

Although the dialogue in itself is considered a practical measure, it does not express a change in Washington's underlying political concepts. Washington has frozen the dialogue at the level of its old demands, which are based on the Palestinian side accepting the Israeli side's conditions of expansion, settlement activities, and occupation, without any return and without any recognition, either by Washington or Israel, of the Palestinian people's national rights.

This is all that has happened so far. Still, the political life in the enemy's entity is confused as though the U.S.

change has already taken place. Hence, these days we see Israeli inflexibility in all its major forces; and the Likud and the Labor, along with the parties of settlement and transfer [preceding word in English], take a single position hostile to any change in Washington's position.

We can say that, with very limited exceptions, the whole of the enemy's state faced the wall and announced its absolute rejection of any concession or change, whether in the U.S. or the Israeli position.

Shamir has not even refrained from announcing that he is ready to enter into a confrontation with Washington to defend his absolute rejection of any change.

Washington's problem lies in the fact that the Israeli entity leaves it no room—not even a little—to maneuver with the other side, even if this is a pro forma maneuver which aims in the end to trap the Palestinian intifadah in the American net.

Washington's problem also lies in the fact that as a political structure, this entity is unable to tolerate such a maneuver even if it were merely a pro forma one.

For example, the mere announcement by the Likud or Shamir's government about its readiness to negotiate with the PLO would immediately bring about an internal collapse of what has been called the Israeli defensive unity. This unity would then be shattered to pieces and all structures of the settlement grouping would be destroyed.

The problem of the enemy's entity is represented in its structural impotence. Its power is represented in clinging to the illusion—the illusion of alienating the other side and, therefore, alienating the solution.

Solution, peace, and stability are all terms that cause overwhelming fear in the Israeli entity and this is something it cannot bear.

Fourth 'Episode'

JN2710131289 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1948 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Fourth of five "episodes" of "A Review of the U.S. Political Position" carried within the "Reading of the Political Situation" feature: "Israel and the U.S. Position: What About the Possibilities Following the Dead End the Zionist Entity Faces?"]

[Text] Brothers, the Israeli enemy entity now actually faces a dead end thanks to the comprehensive Palestinian national presence and thanks to the comprehensive political and diplomatic offensive the PLO is conducting. The enemy has only two possibilities: Either it submits to this reality and gives in to the conditions of peace and stability in the region based on the recognition of our Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, or it works to change the reality that has led it to the dead end.

We realize very well, from the enemy's viewpoint, the near impossibility of its recognizing this new reality. The near impossibility results from the prohibitive cost it will have to pay for such recognition. However, the question is what other possibilities does the Israeli enemy have to change this reality?

From the beginning of the intifadah, the enemy has tried one approach only to deal with it, that of persistent efforts to end and exterminate it. Many U.S. efforts have been exerted to support the Israeli approach. However, the 2d year of the intifadah is nearing its end while the intifadah still enjoys its full vigor and the Israeli enemy continues to be as impotent, in spite of the various forms of repression and oppression it has used. What can the enemy do?

As part of its all-out attack on the intifadah, the enemy has also resorted to political assassinations, that is the assassination of the political leaders of the people and the intifadah, in the hope that the people and the intifadah forces will feel frustrated and defeated. There is no doubt that the enemy thinks daily about using such methods to assassinate the political leadership of our people and the field commanders of the intifadah, after discovering that arrests and deportations are not effective and that, on the contrary, they have breathed new life into the intifadah.

The Israeli enemy, however, has tried the method of political assassination of the people's leadership since the early 1970's. The assassination of Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], our leader and the symbol of our great people, was the most serious decision that the Israeli command made. However, what did it achieve? The momentum of the intifadah is gaining force, and the comprehensive Palestinian resurgence is being enhanced and is scoring further gains throughout the world, while the Israeli enemy losses increase. What other possibilities does the enemy have? Will it resort to the policy of escaping forward by waging a war to restore the state of affairs to what it was? But does the Israeli enemy possess such an option, and will Washington approve it? In our opinion, all these are just insipid and weak possibilities. We would like to reaffirm here that the enemy has no other alternative but to give in to reality and accept it.

Fifth 'Episode'

JN2710134889 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 2013 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Fifth and final "episode" of "A Review of the U.S. Political Position" carried within "The Reading of the Political Situation" feature: "Israel and the U.S. Position: The Lack of Political Option in the Enemy State"]

[Text] The Israeli enemy's military options seem inconclusive: On the one hand, they are unable to crush the valiant Palestinian intifadah, and, on the other, they are unable to escape forward by launching a war in the region to overshadow the intifadah. Does the enemy, then, have any political options? Is the Israeli enemy

seeking a compromise? Is it heading toward an acknowledgement of the Palestinian people's rights? Is it moving toward any political option of any sort?

In fact, despite scores of studies published by the enemy entity's research centers, which envisage the political future of the land of Palestine on the basis of two states, Palestinian and Israeli; despite some political voices calling for such a solution; despite the fact that the Palestinians and their leaders, the PLO, have presented a clearly just political program far removed from all forms of tyranny, intransigence, and attempts to cancel out the other party; and despite clear international support for this political option that is based on the two firm principles: Homeland for the Palestinians and security for the Israelis—despite all this, the mainstream Israeli political bloc still rejects every concession, bargain, attempt at moderation, and every political option. It rejects all this without presenting any alternative or plan.

The Israeli enemy does not reject the Palestinians only, but the entire world; it is now at odds and at war with the world, so much so that Shamir is inciting the Israelis to prepare for a confrontation with their strategic and only ally, the United States. Does the enemy have a political option, then? Certainly not. It only has the military option, which is based on occupation, deportation, and transfer [preceding word in English]. Consequently, the enemy has nothing to do but reject and to continue to reject, although on no grounds, and although its military option is paralyzed and [word indistinct].

So, what will the enemy state do in such a desperate case? It has no choice but to yield to the new reality. We should force it to yield to the new reality and impose on it our just and realistic political option. This can be achieved through our persistence, the continued uprising of our will, and through international opinion, which cannot accept this Israeli political banter and nonsense forever; this will definitely happen.

Baker Statement, U.S. Mideast Options Viewed

LD2710102589 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has confirmed in a letter to Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid that the United States is still committed to its political initiative. At the same time he called on the concerned Arab parties to persuade the PLO not to reject the five points proposed by the United States.

There is no doubt that the U.S. Administration is fully aware that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rejected the Arab, Palestinian, and European initiatives, and the Egyptian and the U.S. points. He declared he was ready to confront any side, including the United States, should it request he accept the principle of "land for peace," that is, Israeli wsithdrawal from the Arab territories it had occupied in 1967.

This being the case, the options facing Washington are: apply pressure on Israel; declare principles concerning the making of peace in the region in accordance with international legitimacy and the international diplomatic inclinations which say that political settlement should be based on the principle of "land for peace" and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. There is also a third option: confrontation with the PLO and the fabrication of crises to show it as the side which obstructs the peace efforts. A fourth option is to abandon U.S. attempts and the saying that the U.S. intervention in the peace process takes place only after the regional sides' approval of a plan liable to pave the way for the start of the process.

Naturally, in relation to the first option, U.S. President George Bush announced that the United States has no intention of applying pressure on Israel or of forcing it to accept any matter it does not want. As to the second option, it has become clear, 9 months after the assumption of office by Bush, that there is no realistic possibility for this option. Excluding these two options leaves the decisionmakers in Washington the option of a confrontation with the PLO, and at the same time the threat of freezing all the U.S. efforts unless the Palestinian leadership accepts Washington's desires. We believe that resorting to these two options is liable to eliminate all the chances for peace. Political realism dictates that Washington should resort to the first and the second options because they represent the key to mobility in the region.

'Arafat Calls Meeting on Mosque 'Violations'

JN2610171989 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has called for convening a high-level Islamic meeting to discuss escalating Zionist violations of Al-Aqsa mosque and the tearing of copies of the holy Koran. He urged that necessary measures be taken to protect the holy places of the occupied Arab territories. This came in urgent messages sent by President Yasir 'Arafat to Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait and chairman of Islamic Conference Organization; Moroccan King Hassan II, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee; Dr Hamid al-Ghabid secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization; and Shaykh Jad-al-Haq 'Ali Jad-al-Haq, rector of al-Azhar.

In these messages, the Palestinian president asked for effective support to the Palestinian people to enable them to deter the Zionist aggression and to continue their struggle until they achieve victory. President 'Arafat also called for intensive efforts on the international arena to stop these violations. He warned against the increasing danger which threatens Jerusalem and other holy places in the occupied Arab territories.

'Arafat, Sudan's Al-Bashir Confer in Baghdad

JN2610190389 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, head of the PLO Executive Committee, met in Baghdad yesterday morning with Lieutenant General 'Umar Ahmad al-Bashir, president of Sudan [title as heard], on the sidelines of Iraq's celebrations to mark the rebuilding of al-Faw. They discussed the latest regional political developments, focusing on the Palestinian question and the increased criminal repression by the occupation army against women, children, and the elderly. Attending were members of the accompanying delegations.

'Abd-Rabbuh Calls U.S.-Israeli Rift 'Maneuver'

JN2610174389 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 25 Oct 89 p 30

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has said "the PLO will call for an emergency Arab foreign ministers meeting to prepare for a call for an emergency Arab summit."

In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA', 'Abd-Rabbuh explained that the purpose of this proposed meeting is to review the recent developments regarding proposed plans pertaining to the Palestine question, the results of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, and the U.S. policy opposed to Palestinian rights. He said this issue was discussed during the PLO Central Council's recent meetings in Baghdad.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that all Arab states, and not only Egypt, should be committed to and implement the Arab Casablanca summit resolutions, which should not be violated in any political move.

'Abd-Rabbuh said he believes the U.S. Administration's intentions currently lean toward practically abolishing the direct dialogue in order to replace it with another dialogue with Egyptian mediation. He said this is another retreat by the United States, which is thus abandoning its former commitments made when it started the dialogue with the PLO late last year.

'Abd-Rabbuh said he believes that what is called a disagreement or cooling in Israeli-U.S. relations is nothing but a maneuver to make Baker's proposals a basis for any effort or solution. He said this is fully rejected by the PLO. He said: "We also reject all current attempts by many parties to drag the PLO into a trap."

PLO Rethinks Policy Due to Israeli Intransigence

PM2510151789 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 21 Oct 89 p 13

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Abu-Iyad Tells AL-MADINAH: There Will Be No Concessions on Palestinian Objectives"]

[Text] Tunis—In a statement to AL-MADINAH Fatah Central Committee Member Abu-Iyad (Salah Khalaf) said that the PLO will never abandon its objectives, which are the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, self-determination, and the right to repatriation. He expressed astonishment at people who cannot differentiate between political moves and concessions. Through its political moves and tactics, he said, the PLO has managed to unmask and expose Israel's aggressive character to world public opinion, which Israel had deceived for 40 years with claims that it was peace-loving and wanted to live in peace with its neighbors in the region.

Abu-Iyad emphasized that the PLO will reconsider its way of tackling the political issue and the Israeli enemy, now that it is clear that the Israeli position is intransigent and not open to change. This matter, he said, will be one of the tasks of the next Fatah Central Committee meeting.

Abu-Iyad said that it would be a concession if the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue was the beginning and the end and therefore an alternative to an international conference, but the PLO has stressed that such a dialogue would be a prelude to negotiations in the framework of an international conference.

He pointed out that the hard truth in the peace process is that the United States is still taking a position of complete alignment with Israel. He called for a unified Arab stand that will make the United States feel that it will have to pay the price, in terms of its interests in the region, for its alignment with Israel.

The Palestinian official expressed regret at the restoration of Hungarian-Israeli relations, which, he said, reflects a real change in the Eastern bloc's position in favor of Israel. He urged the Arab states to develop their trade and economic relations with the bloc that does support Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian people's cause.

Khalaf Comments on Negotiations With Israel

NC2510191089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, the second man in the Fatah Movement, the largest Palestinian organization, and member of its Central Committee, has emphasized that the Palestinian side will not accept that the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with Israel be composed of only Palestinians from the occupied territories. He said that the

delegation should include Palestinians from both inside and outside the occupied territories to symbolize the unity of the Palestinian cause and people. He pointed out that the issue is not one of a minority inside Israel as Israel wants to portray to the world.

In an interview to be published in the Egyptian weekly AL-MUSAWWAR on Friday, the Palestinian official says that the ball is now in Israel's court. He says: If Israel accepts the principle of a Palestinian delegation from both inside and outside the territories, then let the Palestinian and Israeli sides meet without preconditions to hold a dialogue on the best way to achieve a solution to the Middle East problem.

In the interview, Abu-Iyad explains that Israel is missing an opportunity to establish peace, saying: We have given the world all it has asked from us. We have made concessions that Israel never dreamed of. We have accepted the principle of two coexisting states. The Palestinian leadership made an offer for peace, something it never did before. However, Israel did not accept this offer, an offer all Arabs support.

Abu-Iyad points out that if Israel were to accept the comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian question, it would be seizing the opportunity of a lifetime because the Palestinian, who is the victim, would, for the first time in history, recognize the one who committed an aggression against his homeland and soil.

Regarding the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and whether there is a stalemate, Abu-Iyad says: To end the current stagnation in the dialogue, the United States ought to stop being partial to Israel and deal with the issue in an objective manner.

Abu-Iyad points out that the reason for the present stalemate in the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is the fact that the United States adopts Israel's view regarding the formation of the Palestinian delegation comprising only Palestinians from inside the occupied territories.

'Abbas Meets With USSR's Yuliy Vorontsov

JN2610171389 Manamah WAKH in Arabic 1458 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Tunis, 26 Oct (WAKH)—The joint Palestinian-Soviet committee has recently concluded its meetings in Moscow. The meetings dealt with current developments in the Middle East, efforts to reactivate the peace process, and issues of mutual concern.

The Palestinian side was headed by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, while the Soviet side was headed by First Deputy Foreign Minster Yuliy Vorontsov.

The two sides agreed to develop their strong coordination and cooperation to achieve peace in the Middle East.

PFLP's Habash Addresses Moscow Student Rally

JN2610174989 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Comrade George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has underscored the importance of deepening and bolstering national unity and PLO institutions as the foundation of Palestinian freedom and independence.

Addressing a packed student rally in Moscow yesterday, Habash called for radicalizing and stepping up the intifadah in the interest of the Palestinian people's rights of return, self-determination, and statehood. The PFLP secretary general hailed our people's heroic steadfastness against unsurpassed Zionist repression and terror.

Official Gives Death Toll in Occupied Area

NC2410185789 Cairo MENA in English 1319 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 24 (MENA)—The Palestinian Information Office here said the martyrs of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands totalled 950 up till now. Usamah Sharab, in charge of Palestinian information here, said Bayt Sahur city is still beseiged by the Israeli forces which plundered properties to the value of six million dollars. The city, he added, is still resisting Israeli acts of violence.

The Palestinian official urged the international community and humanitarian organisations to interfere to put an end to Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights in the occupied lands which contradict with the simplest international codes.

Egypt

YAR President Salih Arrives for 4-Day Visit

NC2610115789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1051 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Yemen Arab Republic President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih arrived in Cairo this morning from Baghdad. He is paying a 4-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak.

Holds Talks With Mubarak

NC2610123489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1156 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Yemen Arab Republic President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih have held a round of talks at the president's office in Heliopolis.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the talks between the two leaders dealt with issues of common concern, especially bilateral relations and the expansion of cooperation in all fields. They also discused Arab issues and current developments in the Arab world.

PLO Envoy on 'Arafat's Role as Spokesman

NC2610162689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1059 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, has said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is the official spokesman of the PLO Executive Committee and the official entitled to express the PLO's stand on what is happening in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas. Kamal made this statement to MENA in response to reports citing statements by certain officials in the wake of the Palestinian leader's latest visit to Egypt.

Sudanese Embassy Denies Report on Falashas

NC2610184289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1727 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—The Sudanese Embassy in Cairo has categorically denied a report published in an Egyptian opposition newspaper yesterday that the Sudanese Government continues to transfer Falasha Jews to Israel.

'Izz-al-Din Hamid, Sudanese ambassador in Cairo, said the newspaper's report is untrue. He stressed Sudan's firm position on this issue.

Manpower Minister Receives USSR Trade Unionists

NC2610120089 Cairo MENA in English 1052 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 26 (MENA)—Minister of Manpower and Training 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq today received a visiting Soviet Trade Union's delegation led by the first deputy chairman of the Soviet Federation of Trade Unions.

The meeting attended by the chairman of the Egyptian Federation of Trade Unions and the Soviet ambassador in Cairo reviewed aspects of trade union cooperation and the situation in the region.

Minister Cited on Arabsat Ground Station

NC2710060289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 27 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH reports on the statement by Eng Sulayman Mutawwali, minister of transport and communication, announcing the decision to complete work on the ground station of the Arab satellite, Arabsat, within 18 months. According to the minister, the station will be used for telephone communications between Egypt and the Arab countries and the transmission of radio and television programs.

Sudan

South Africa's Tutu Arrives in Khartoum

EA2510181789 Khartoum SUNA in English 1055 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum 25 Oct (SUNA)—The famous anti-apartheid activist, chairman of the Churches Council in Africa, Rev Desmond Tutu, arrived here today, coming from Cairo, on a two-day visit to Sudan.

In a statement upon arrival at the airport, the Nobel prize-winner, Rev Tutu, spoke about the situation in South Africa, revealing that although Pretoria's government had given good promises, great numbers of anti-racism activists are still in jails. He added that "violations of the black citizens' rights are still high." "We have presented positive proposals to the government for resolving these problems," he said.

On the goals of his visit to Sudan, Rev Tutu said he has come here to put himself at the disposal of peace in Sudan and to prepare for a meeting between the government and the rebel movement of Col John Garang. He affirmed that he will continue his endeavors for maintaining stability and resolve the regional conflicts in Africa, referring in this regard to his talks he had with Egyptian president, chairman of the OAU, Husni Mubarak.

He said, "We are paying deep concern to the southern Sudan question, because it has negative consequences in the process of efforts for independence in South Africa." In this regard Rev Tutu explained that leaders of the racist regime in South Africa are taking the African regional conflicts as an indicator for the correctness of [word indistinct] in alleging that "Africans are incapable to resolve their domestic problems."

Rev Tutu in his statement praised Egypt's role in solving the regional conflicts in Africa. He referred to Africa's problems of drought, desertification, famine and foreign debts, asserting the importance of unifying the ranks for solving them. Rev Tutu also welcomed the Libyan-Egyptian reconciliation, calling for sincere work to end the regional disputes in Africa.

While here, Rev Tutu will meet with the deputy chairman of the Revolution Council Brig al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, and a number of government officials and clergymen. Rev Tutu will also deliver today a lecture at Khartoum University on "peaceful coexistence among religions" and hold a press conference tomorrow, Thursday. At the conclusion of his visit to Sudan Rev Tutu will proceed to Addis Ababa within the context of his African tour.

Reportage on National Dialogue Conference

Brigadier Kassiano Comments

EA2610094989 Khartoum SUNA in French 1535 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Oct (SUNA)—Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council has stressed that the resolutions of the national dialogue conference on peace problems will be the main channel for the settlement of the problems of the south. The brigadier, who was addressing a number of foreign journalists in Khartoum on Wednesday, noted that the plenary national conference had, for the first time since the Juba conference in (?1949), held a serious and more rational discussion of the country's problems.

Khalifah Briefs Ethiopian Envoy

EA2610083689 Khartoum SUNA in French 1539 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Oct (SUNA)—Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, National Salvation Revolution Command Council member, and chairman of the national dialogue conference steering committee held a meeting with the Ethiopian envoy to Sudan in Khartoum today. During the meeting, Col Khalifah briefed the Ethiopian diplomat on the results of the national peace conference. In a statement released to the press, the Ethiopian diplomat confirmed [words indistinct] in order to restore peace and stability in southern Sudan.

Libyan Envoy Briefed

EA2610084089 Khartoum SUNA in French 1540 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Oct (SUNA)—Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah [words indistinct]. Col Khalifah briefed the Libyan diplomat on the results of the peace conference and the process of external moves in order to [words indistinct]. The Libyan diplomat expressed satisfaction about the results of the peace conference.

Egyptian Envoy on Conference

EA2610092889 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1537 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The member of the Revolution Command Council, Colonel Martin Malwal, met this afternoon his excellency the Egyptian ambassador to the Sudan, Mr Muhammad Taqiy al-Din al-Shirbini. The meeting reviewed the recommendations of the national dialogue conference on peace and the Egyptian role in the efforts for peace in south Sudan. The meeting also discussed the possibility of accepting the southern students in the Egyptian technical colleges so as to participate in the development of the south.

SPLA Accuses Al-Bashir of 'Blatantly Lying'

EA2610171389 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1350 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] today acused 'Umar al-Bashir of blatantly lying through his teeth in his last press conference. The following are such blatant lies.

One, 'Umar al-Bashir claimed that the SPLA had said they will capture Kurmuk as a gift to the Sudanese people. Where did 'Umar al-Bashir hear this? The Sudanese people listen to Radio SPLA and they are witnesses that at no time did this come over Radio SPLA. It only came from the mouth of 'Umar al-Bashir and it is simply a lie. Someone who calls himself a head of state should never lie.

The second lie is that 'Umar al-Bashir claimed that it is SPLA that attacked Kurmuk. We have the capability to attack Kurmuk and if we wanted to do this, we would have done it a long time ago. The truth is that the fighting took place in the Surkum-(Abu al-Dugu)-Shali al-Fil area between Kurmuk and Ad Damazin. The SPLA here invites Sudanese and international journalists to come to Surkum area to see for themselves. It was a force from Ad Damazin that attacked SPLA positions in Surkum and that is how the fighting started. This force left Ad Damazin on 9 October 1989 commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Sayyid Jamal al-Din and attacked SPLA positions in Surkum on 16 October 1989. Fighting lasted 7 days and 'Umar al-Bashir's unprovoked attack was finally repulsed on 23 October 1989. It is also a fact

that 'Umar al-Bashir sent another force that left Ad Damazin on 20 October 1989 under command of Colonel Muhammad Ali al-Haji.

This force will also be destroyed. SPLA cells in Ad Damazin and (Dondoro) keep us informed about 'Umar al-Bashir's plans and movements and we assure Col Muhammad 'Ali al-Haji that if he advances from (Dondoro), this will lead to his destruction. The truth is that 'Umar al-Bashir used his so-called dialogue conference as a cover to launch his Blue Nile offensive. He advanced the force of Lt Col Sayyid Jamal al-Din on 9 October 1989 while the conference was in the middle of its work and he started fighting SPLA forces on 16 October 1989 in Surkum as the conference neared its end, and he sent another force under Col Muhammad 'Ali al-Haji on 20 October 1989 while he was closing the conference. This is an insult to those who attended the conference and to the Sudanese people.

The third lie is that 'Umar al-Bashir claimed that his forces in Kurmuk inflicted heavy casualties on the SPLA in lives and materiel. The truth is that 'Umar al-Bashir's Safety of Kurmuk [Aman al-Kurmuk] force got destroyed in Surkum area, not Kurmuk, and with heavy casualties—more than 150 men, noncommissioned officers, and officers killed and 10 trucks captured in good condition, in addition to those destroyed. Lots of ammunition and heavy weapons were captured. The trucks and equipment that were destroyed still litter the Surkum area as evidence that this is where the fighting took place, not Kurmuk as claimed by 'Umar al-Bashir.

Those in the Army General Headquarters, Khartoum, and Al-Damazin know these facts. So who is 'Umar al-Bashir trying to deceive but himself? If 'Umar wants us to attack Kurmuk, we assure him that we have the capability to do this and we just may have to do it to show 'Umar al-Bashir how the SPLA attacks—and the soldiers in Kurmuk will have nobody but 'Umar to blame.

The spokesman concluded, saying that the SPLA side of the story is the truth and the movement stands by it. The fighting took place in Surkum not Kurmuk, and anyone interested is invited to go to Surkum.

'Umar al-Bashir has clearly shown that his interest is war, not peace. This was clear from the very beginning. The movement asks the Sudanese people to judge for themselves. If 'Umar al-Bashir wanted peace, why did he give the SPLA only 3 days to attend his peace conference? SPLA was invited on Wednesday and expected to turn up in Khartoum on the following Saturday. Is this realistic? Even a child would say it is not realistic.

Secondly, why did 'Umar al-Bashir organize the conference without consulting with the SPLA and expect the movement to attend? Is this realistic? Again, even a child would know it is not realistic.

Thirdly, why did 'Umar decide alone that the venue of the conference to be Khartoum without agreement with the SPLA and expect the movement to go to Khartoum? Is this realistic? Again, even a child would know this is not realistic. The answers to all these questions show that 'Umar al-Bashir took over power to make war not peace, and he proved this when he attacked our positions in Surkum on 16 October 1989.

Renewed Fighting With SPLA, Al-Bashir Forces

EA2610170489 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Oct 89

[From the "With the Battalions" program]

[Text] Compatriots, as you may have heard in the local and international media, the smoldering hostilities between the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] and Al-Bashir's forces have at last broken out. After the lull of about 6 months, 'Umar al-Bashir has again imposed war on the Sudanese people. On the 9th of October 1989, 'Umar al-Bashir ordered his troops in Ad Damazin to advance and clear SPLA forces between Ad Damazin and Kurmuk. On the 16th of October 1989, 'Umar al-Bashir's troops commanded by Lieutenant Colonel al-Sayyid Jamal al-Din, attacked the SPLA forces of the new Funj [16th Century Sultanate] in three locations, at (Abu al-Dugu), Surkum, and (Mayak) areas.

Our gallant forces of the new Funj under the tactical overall command of the SPLA Chief of Staff Commander William Nyuan Bany Deng, as ever put up a fierce resistance and wiped out Al-Bashir's sectarian troops after 7 days of fierce battle.

History repeats itself. As you all know, the beginning of the present war was through dictator Al-Numayri sending his reactionary troops to attack the Sudanese Army garrisons at Pibor and Ayod commanded by William Nyuan, by then a major in the Sudanese Army. Al-Numayri's attacking forces were liquidated by the patriotic forces under command of William Nyuan and the SPLA was born.

Surely, Al-Bashir, have many things in common: both are military dictators, who rose to power through deceptions. [sentence as heard] Al-Numayri used the card of communist to come to power. He later crushed the communist elements in the Sudanese Army and ended up a Muslim fundamentalist.

'Umar al-Bashir, like Al-Numayri, used the name of the Army General Command to come to power. He deceived the Sudanese Army that he was taking over power in the name of the General Command, while at the same time arresting the Army General Command and announced the coup in his name. He has now displayed his true colors of Muslim fundamentalist. He has dismissed all the women in the judiciary, post offices, and in some other public services. And now that his attack on Commander William Nyuan in Blue Nile Province has been crushed, the birth of the new united democratic Sudan is in sight.

'Umar al-Bashir's attacks on the SPLA positions in the southern Blue Nile are unprovoked. Ironically, these attacks took place when al-Bashir himself was priding himself on declaring his meaningless unilateral cease-fire and calling on the SPLA to go to Khartoum to discuss peace with him. Isn't it ridiculous, crude, and absurd for 'Umar al-Bashir to invite the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]/SPLA leadership to go to talk peace in Khartoum, while at the same time sending his forces to attack SPLA positions? This behavior of Al-Bashir shows his lack of seriousness about peace.

Since the self-promoted general took over power on 30 June this year, he has presented no peace program other than provocative language of war and destruction to the Sudanese people. The SPLM/SPLA, being the vanguard and the rightful representative of the Sudanese people, has done all and will continue to do all in its power to bring about peace to the Sudan. The four-point peace program of the SPLM/SPLA, which is supported by the broad masses of the Sudan, remains a challenge to the junta. The broad support given to the SPLM/SPLA peace program by the peace-loving political forces in the country shows that the Sudanese people are determined to protect their country from being thrown back into the darkness of the 17th century from which philanthropy has rescued Sudan. It is the duty of all the peace-loving and nonsectarian political forces in the Sudan, the trade unions, the intellectuals, workers, peasants, and students in our cities, to rise and protect our hard-own independence from being swamped into the floods of fanaticism of the National Islamic Front masquerading as saviors in the so-called Command Council for the Salvation of the country.

This gang of brigadiers, led by 'Umar al-Bashir, are not the rightful representatives of the Sudanese people. Neither can they be saviors of the Sudan. True to say, when the days of salvation are nearing, there will emerge a number of false prophets. These 15 brigadiers in their corrupt council for the destruction of the country led by 'Umar al-Bashir are the emerging false prophets that our people should guard against. Brig 'Umar al-Bashir, with his gang of 14 coopted otherwise [as heard], have blotted out the democratic progress and enchained its leaders in Khartoum, and the junta now thinks it can lure the SPLM/SPLA, the only democratic force in the bush, to Khartoum to be thrown into chains. It is impossible. Al-Numayri tried and went. Siwar al-Dhahab came and went. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi with his four sectarian governments came and are now in jail. The SPLM/SPLA will continue fighting until its objectives of creating a new united democratic Sudan are achieved.

The SPLM/SPLA leadership is aware that the junta is marching steadily in the path of dissolution. It has rooted out every vestige of democracy and secularism and is about to declare Sudan an Islamic republic.

More so, the policy of Al-Bashir is directed to strengthening his power and concentrating it in the hands of the Army. This was confirmed by 'Umar al-Bashir himself in one of his BBC interviews, that he is not going to hand over power to the politicians because, according to him, the politicians have failed three times, forgetting that the Army failed many more times.

Brig 'Umar and his coopted gang of 15 or 14, think of nothing but war. That is why he insists on taking the Islamic sharia laws to a referendum and talks of partitioning the country. Once he is sure of what he has got, he will try to enlarge his dominion. Hence, barbarism and dissolution will be extended to areas which internal difficulties have so far prevented him from absorbing. But the SPLA will continue to fight for the establishment of a democratic new Sudan, where everybody fits in. We assure our people that the SPLM/SPLA shall never let them down. With the new Funj in its southern Blue Nile, new Cush in Kordofan, and Bright Star shining the path to salvation, the creation of the new Sudan is imminent and inevitable. The struggle continues.

Director General of Police Appointed 25 Oct

EA2610094889 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1537 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The deputy president of the Revolution Command Council, Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, issued a resolution appointing Major General Police Awad Khawjali as director general of police, while he issued another resolution pensioning Lieutenant General Police 'Uthman al-Shafiq Muhammad. It is to be recalled that Brig al-Zubayr has issued a resolution promoting Brigadier Police Awad Khawjali to major general.

Saddam Husayn Receives Mauritanian Counterpart

AB2510224789 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Today is the 2d day of the visit to Iraq by Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] chairman and head of state. Col Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya is expected today to attend the festivities marking the inauguration of the city of al- Faw, reconstructed after the war, together with his brother and friend, President Saddam Husayn. Several Arab leaders are participating in these festivities.

Yesterday, a particularly warm welcome was given to the CMSN chairman and head of state on his arrival in Baghdad. The head of state and his host, President Saddam Husayn, held a first round of talks at the VIP lounge at the airport and later met for a second time for discussions which included members of the Mauritanian and Iraqi delegations.

YAR President Attends Al-Faw Celebrations

JN2510151589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, arrived in Baghdad at 1100 this morning to participate in fraternal Iraq's celebrations on the occasion of rebuilding al-Faw—the city of sacrifice, steadfastness, and victory. He was accorded a great official welcome upon arrival. [passage omitted]

Arab Leaders Depart After al-Faw Celebrations

Mauritanian President Leaves

JN2610122789 Baghdad INA in English 1148 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 26, INA—President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya of Mauritania left Baghdad this morning, winding up a visit to Iraq in which he took part in nation-wide celebrations on the completion of the al-Faw reconstruction drive.

The Mauritanian president was seen off at the airport by President Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council (RCC) members and a number of ministers.

YAR, Djibouti Presidents Leave

JN2610122689 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, Oct 26, INA—Arab leaders' representatives left here last night after taking part in Iraq's celebration on al-Faw reconstruction. [passage omitted]

President Hassan Gouled of Djibouti left Baghdad today, winding up a visit during which he took part in Iraq's celebrations on al-Faw reconstruction.

President Gouled was accorded a state farewell led by President Saddam Husayn.

President Gouled was also seen off by RCC [Revolution Command Council] member and First Deputy Premier Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC members and ministers.

Meanwhile, North Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih departed here after a similar visit to Iraq. President Salih was given a red-carpet farewell led by President Husayn. President Salih was also seen off by RCC members and ministers.

Sudanese President Leaves

JN2610122889 Baghdad INA in English 1150 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 26, INA—Chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir left Baghdad this morning, concluding a visit to Iraq in which he took part in Iraq's celebration in the completion of al-Faw reconstruction drive.

The Sudanese leader was seen off at the airport by President Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council (RCC) members, ministers and senior state officials.

Foreign Minister Meets PLO President 'Arafat

JN2610202789 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. The meeting dealt with the latest developments in the Palestine question, the popular, brave Palestinian intifadah inside the occupied Arab territories, and issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by PLO Executive Committee members 'Abdallah Hurani and 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad, the head of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry's Arab Department; and the ambassador of the state of Palestine in Baghdad.

Leak of South African Nuclear Reports Reviewed

TA2710100889 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Oct 89 pp 2, 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir, Shmu'el Tal, Shmu'el Rosenblum, Oron Me'iri, and Yosi Werther]

[Excerpts] NBC-TV continued to broadcast documentaries on the special defense ties between Israel and South Africa yesterday and last night. These reports also mentioned what the U.S. television network termed "nuclear relations." [passage omitted]

The report on Israel's nuclear relations with South Africa has angered Israeli political sources. [passage omitted]

The fear was expressed in Jerusalem that the leak of these reports from the Pentagon to NBC was intended to harm Israel. These reports present Israel as a violator of public pledges to the United States in which Israel had vowed not to provide military assistance to South Africa, certainly not insofar as the manufacture of combat aircraft and ballistic missiles with nuclear capability are concerned.

The Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] was also piqued by the NBC reports. A senior IAI source denied the allegation that Israel continues to coproduce the Lavi aircraft with South Africa.

The defense establishment also issued a denial of the report. According to sources, Israel would never, under any circumstances, have risked transferring the Western know-how and technology that it possesses to South Africa, which is subject to an arms embargo.

As for the Israeli engineers who left the IAI or were dismissed, the sources said that every individual who was laid off as a result of the cutbacks that followed the termination of the Lavi project went his own way and presumably still works in the same area. Yet this has nothing to do with any Israeli project, certainly not with the Lavi.

Defense establishment sources have said that instructions governing the export of military know-how and cooperation with foreign countries in defense development are sensitive issues under close supervision. The sources added that in view of the embargo on the export of weapons to, and the development of weapon systems with South Africa, it would be far-fetched to assume that Israel would have risked the U.S. military and civilian aid it receives, to the tune of $3 billion per annum, by taking action that contravenes the embargo policy. [passage omitted]

Report on South African Nuclear Ties Refuted

TA2610120189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that the NBC-TV report concerning the joint development of a nuclear missile by Israel and South Africa is totally unfounded. It is a complete lie, Mr Shamir said in an interview with the Voice of Israel's Arabic department. [passage omitted]

The South African ambassador to Israel has said that he knows nothing of Israeli-South African ties of the kind reported by NBC. Our correspondent Itay Engel spoke this morning to Ambassador Johan Viljoen:

[Begin recording] [Viljoen, in English] Well, I also heard news on the radio this morning, and that is really all I know about this matter. So, I do not have any information or knowledge about such cooperation between Israel and South Africa. These, of course, are allegations which have been made over a number of years, and perhaps that question could best be answered by the Israeli authorities.

[Engel translates and continues] All that Ambassador Viljoen was willing to add on this issue is that the South African defense industry is highly developed. Proof of this can be found in the fact that Pretoria is exporting weapons to 20 countries around the world. The Israeli Government, according to him, is the only authority that can and should comment on the NBC report. [end recording]

Rabin Denies Nuclear Production With RSA

TA2610184989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin also has denied the reports that Israel and South Africa have jointly developed a nuclear missile. Rabin said that unfortunately for us, stories circulate from time to time claiming that Israel is in possession of nuclear missiles. Israel subsequently denies these allegations.

Our correspondent Shay Kreitel reports that Minister Rabin made these remarks at a Labor Party convention in Ramat Gan.

Shamir on U.S. Relations, Histadrut Elections

TA2610212789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today claimed that the United States has no ally more faithful and reliable than Israel. Shamir added that our friend must nevertheless remember that Israel's supreme loyalty is to Eretz Yisra'el. If we stand on our principles faithfully and show determination and wisdom, we will protect our rights and preserve our friendship with the United States.

Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that the prime minister was speaking at a Histadrut election rally in Petah Tiqva. Shamir denied the reports on nuclear cooperation between Israel and South Africa and said that Israel will not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons to the region.

On the Histadrut elections, Shamir said that the red flag is being lowered in all communist countries and in countries ruled by socialist parties. According to Shamir, the banner of free economics is being flown throughout the world. Shamir asserted that this should also be the case in Israel, and the collapse of the Histadrut industries proves this. The prime minister called on Likud members to participate in the elections if Eretz Yisra'el is important to them.

Rabin Says Histadrut Vote Affects Peace Process

TA2610202689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has joined those who believe that the Histadrut elections will have an effect on the peace process.

Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch reports that during a Histadrut election rally, Minister Rabin said that the results of these elections will answer the question of whether Israel is willing to give peace a chance.

Minister Rabin said he would have preferred to consult with Egypt until an agreement was reached. He also said he would have preferred to discuss and argue with Egypt rather than the United States, but the situation is such that Washington is already a partner to the process.

Unity Government's Achievements Please Rabin

TA2710060689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Report by Sheli Yehimovitch on remarks by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at a Histadrut elections rally in Ramat Gan on 26 October]

[Text] It is not clear whether this was an unequivocal declaration of intentions not to quit the government, but last night Minister Rabin said: I wanted a unity government, and I am pleased with its achievements today as well. There would have been no peace initiative had we not been sitting in the government. Through our participation in the government, we—the Labor Party—made it happen.

Minister Rabin said that he regrets the fact that some Labor ministers twist the party's political platform. There will be no Palestinian state, he told those ministers, no return to the 1967 borders, and no negotiations on East Jerusalem. Addressing the Likud, he said: I was not the one to talk to the PLO; it was you!

[Begin Rabin recording] I was not a member of the government that in 1981 negotiated with the PLO. Ask U.S. Ambassador Philip Habib! Did he not help attain a cease-fire agreement between the PLO in Lebanon and the Israeli Government headed by the Likud? I suggest that they be a little more sensitive about accusing other people. [end recording]

Secretary of State Baker explicitly says that he supports the Israeli peace initiative; and so does Egypt, Minister Rabin said. The peace initiative is alive and well. Initiatives were not meant to be left on paper. In a message directed at the prime minister, Rabin said: A politician is tested by his ability to implement the plans he has proposed, unless he does not really want them implemented.

Netanyahu Meets With UK's Waldegrave in London

TA2710062489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu met in London yesterday with the British minister at the Foreign Office responsible for the Middle East, William Waldegrave. Later, Netanyahu told reporter Jerry Lewis that his discussion was part of a periodic update on issues concerning both countries. He declined to elaborate on the content. Our reporter asked the deputy foreign minister about the reports that, under pressure to persuade Israel to accept the Baker five points, President Bush might refuse to see Prime Minister Shamir.

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] I don't think there is a threat there. I don't think that meetings between leaders are prizes accorded by one nation to another. They are the normal courtesy of exchange between the governments of nations. Mr Shamir has made a very good proposal; it's the only workable proposal. Israel is not now presenting points to win negotiating points. It is presenting points which are inherent with the peace proposal, and we're simply trying to make sure that everything that we do coheres with that peace proposal. That's the gist of what we're talking about. It's not a negotiating tactic; it's a substantive insistence on making sure that things go along the Israeli peace proposal.

[Lewis] So do you expect any changes in the Israeli plan in the next few weeks, or do you think it's going to be the Baker interpretation of it that's going to change?

[Netanyahu] I think Israel has been very open. It's been very pragmatic, and we've been very flexible. But it's time now that the efforts be addressed to the real obstacles in moving this process forward. The first one is the growing Arab terror against Arabs. The PLO is killing Arabs daily, Arabs who would like to see the Israeli peace plan move forward, and the reason they're not doing so is not because of fear of Israel but fear of the PLO. We have to bring down the fear quotient by bringing greater security into the territories. But equally, I think it's time to exert greater political support for Israel's plan. The pressure should be exerted not on Israel but on those in the Arab world who oppose the Israeli plan. [end recording]

Editorial Sees Baker's Message as U.S. 'Rebuff'

TA2610160489 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Oct 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Baker's Message and the True Dimension"]

[Text] Amid the diplomatic developments being witnessed in the region, especially those pertaining to Israel's position regarding the five points presented by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker more than 2 weeks ago and the amendments that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens are demanding in the form of U.S. guarantees to exclude the PLO from the peace process and confine the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to the topic of elections only, news agencies have revealed that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat received a message from Baker concerning the matter and, in all likelihood, sent 'Arafat the text of his proposals.

If this report is true, the lesson lies not in the content of the U.S. message but in its timing, which clearly reflects Washington's disagreeing to ignore the PLO's role in the peace process. This message may be regarded as a rebuff to Israel's demand to exclude the PLO from the peace process, and apparently its repercussions go beyond the content, agenda, and modalities of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

The current debate in the decisionmaking centers in the United States, Egypt, Israel, Tunisia, and other Arab and foreign countries is about the issue of Palestinian representation. Israel insists on taking part in the selection of the members of the Palestinian delegation after being assured that the PLO will not join the peace talks later.

As for Washington, it is trying to play with words. Baker's plan stipulates that Egypt will consult with the Palestinians on all stages and aspects of the dialogue. It is no secret to anyone that what is meant by the phrase "with the Palestinians" is the PLO.

At any rate, the world is well aware that the amendments Israel is trying to introduce to Baker's plan are aimed at this plan's rejection. This is what prompted the U.S. secretary of state to reject Israel's position regarding his points and to call on Israel to respond positively with the aim of advancing the peace process in the region.

Naturally, if the parties concerned in launching a peace process in the region enter an empty circle, represented by a linguistic game and procedural debates, peace efforts will not be served at all. What is required for peace is now known to everyone. The majority of the world's countries have defined their positions on the basis of these factors founded on realism, comprehensiveness, and balance.

Palestinian Response to Baker Plan Discussed

TA2610145289 Jerusalem AL-SHAB in Arabic 25 Oct 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Baker's Plan"]

[Text] Once again the five-point plan announced by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is at the center of political events in the region. This interest can be witnessed by the active political movement in the region represented in the urgent exchange of messages between Washington, Tel Aviv, and Cairo. Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo 2 days ago following talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and other Egyptian officials. The talks focused on "Baker's plan" and the possibility of introducing amendments and clarifications to its points.

The message sent yesterday by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to his U.S. counterpart, James Baker, in which Arens stated Israel's "conditional" agreement to Baker's plan, and the U.S. rebuff, which termed the message not positive, reflect the impasse into which Israel's leaders have led themselves. It also reflects the distress Washington has caused itself by its continuing unconditional support for Israel's policies, which hinder the available chances for peace.

The Palestinian assessment of Baker's plan will take place in light of the resolutions of the 19th session of the Palestine National Council held in Algiers. The plan also will be assessed in light of the Palestinian initiative proclaimed by this council, which expresses a strategic and not a tactical stance. This stance will under no circumstances be subject to bargaining, and the U.S. Administration must comprehend this reality clearly. To see this will lead to the promotion of peace efforts and to the extrication of the peace process from the tight corner into which Israel's leaders are trying to force it.

Should Washington opt to join the international consensus for the establishment of peace in the region on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy supporting the principle of "land in return for peace," and should Washington cease its blind support of the Israeli positions, the lost credibility of the U.S. positions will be retrieved and will contribute to advancing the peace process in the region.

No Palestinian Position on Baker Plan Yet

TA2610100289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni said today that the Palestinians have not yet determined their position on Baker's five-point plan. We have not received the plan, nor have we rejected it, Al-Husayni told an ITIM correspondent. He pointed out that the Palestinians will request U.S. clarifications on the five-point plan and will not be satisfied with Israel's acceptance of it.

Commentator Assails Shamir's Tactics on Peace

TA2610134689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Oct 89 p 11

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Too Much, Too Late"]

[Text] In his letter to James Baker, Moshe Arens did not include anything he could not have said 20 days ago when the secretary of state initially handed him the five points. Aside from improving the Bezeq telephone company's balance sheet, what has Israel gained from the telephone diplomacy that has been going on for 20 days between Washington and Jerusalem? What would have happened had Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir ordered, instead of the pathetic saber rattling, an immediate "yes, but" response to the Americans, as he finally did Monday morning? The incident over the five points can serve as a case study in courses for diplomats and politicians on "how not to conduct political contacts."

In a rare moment of frankness with a group of journalists, Arens confided about the difficult circumstances in which he is forced to work. Do not envy me, he said, my condition is much harder than that of my U.S. counterparts: "I not only have to coordinate with and report to my prime minister; I also have the Likud ministers and the Inner Cabinet hanging over me, as well as the problem of leaks—and I have to maneuver carefully between all them." Arens was expressing the desire of the Shamir camp "to get along" with everybody. The outcome, which was not inevitable, is that they have become embroiled with everybody and have left angry casualties abandoned in the field.

The most severe and obvious damage occurred in relations with the United States, as witnessed by Abba Eban, who said after talks with the administration, Congress, the Jewish establishment, and the Washington media, that he does not recall a time when the positions and official statements of the Israeli leadership aroused such outspoken opposition.

The prime minister's policy of attrition, accompanied by a show of muscle, is aimed at making clear to the Americans that nothing will bring him to talk to the PLO or its representatives. Baker was prepared to accept this message, as Tuesday's remarks by his spokeswoman show, even had it been couched in more subdued tones. It can certainly be assumed that had we adopted the tactic of adding positive semantics to the two negative responses to the five points, it would have saved Israel an extra layer of bitterness at the State Department, embarrassment among Jewish activists, concern among friends in Congress, and sharp criticism in the media. The fact that overall U.S.-Israeli relations will stand firm does not in any way minimize the damage done.

On the other hand, the constraints ministers are lurking around Shamir, as are the partners: Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin. They all have maneuvered lamely. Fromtalks with close Shamir associates, the impression gained is that the prime minister "is interested, but afraid." He is interested in finally achieving a political success, but is not prepared to take the risk of a PLO success. Shamir is not the only one afraid of letting the PLO enter the political process through the back door. On this issue, David Levi's and Yitzhaq Rabin's doors would be open for him. Even Shim'on Peres wanted a U.S. guarantee that the Israeli delegation could leave Cairo if the Palestinian delegation declares itself a "Palestine delegation."

Instead, Shamir chose to leave them in the dark, just as he waived off the reservoir of experience and knowledge held by all the senior officials in the Prime Minister's Office, the Foreign Ministry, and the Washington embassy, including directors general, department heads, and the ambassador (telephone diplomacy has also left U.S. Ambassador William Brown—an extremely friendly diplomat—in the dark; but that, of course, is not our problem).

Instead of acting according to the proven rule: If you can't beat 'em, join 'em; and convening the forum of six—which (under the coalition agreement) includes Deputy Prime Ministers David Levi and Yitzhaq Navon—Shamir prefers to finalize matters among his loyalists: Moshe Arens, Dan Meridor, and Ehud Olmert. The prime minister did not bother to visit Peres in the hospital and update the vice prime minister, whom Shamir accuses of conspiring with the Arabs and the Americans behind his back. Shamir also renounced any real attempt to "divide and conquer" Peres and Rabin, although the latter has reservations about the efforts to form a narrow-based government.

Shamir's method, the continuous chipping away at rivals within and without until they give in, could have been used as a tactic had he agreed in principle to Baker's document and proposed sending one of his advisers to Washington to negotiate the points still in dispute. The fear of leaks was the excuse given for the decision to prefer direct contacts between political leaderships in Jerusalem and Washington without consultations, minutes, and reports to the Inner Cabinet. Indeed, Baker complained several times to Shamir and Arens that everything he says one day appears in the press the following day. Reports about Israeli demands for a safety valve against the PLO was what led to demands by 'Arafat for counter-guarantees. An example is the Israeli public claim that Baker went back on his promise for a veto on the Palestinian delegation, which makes it hard for the administration to obtain Israeli partners for the talks. One must be simply evil to believe that this is exactly what Shamir wanted, but that is what is happening.

Peres To Remain in Hospital Through Weekend

TA2710090389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Oct 89 p 16

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] Vice Premier and Finance Minister Shim'on Peres is well on the road to full recovery, the doctors treating him at the Kupat Holim Clalit's [Sick Fund] 'Emeq Hospital here said yesterday. He has been confined to the hospital urology department since October 17. Peres had been expected to be released this weekend. But, Dr. Moshe Sudarsky, head of the urology department, decided to keep him there at least till the beginning of next week.

Agreement Reached on Water Projects in USSR

TA2710090689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Oct 89 p 12

[Text] An Israeli trading company this week signed an agreement with the Soviet National Institute for Desalination and Irrigation to set up a joint company to undertake water projects in the Soviet Union and in third countries, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned.

The agreement was signed Wednesday, the last day of an international exhibition of agricultural equipment held in Moscow, in which Israeli companies participated. It was the first time the Israel Export Institute had its own booth at a Soviet exhibition.

According to Rafi Glick, director of the institute's industrial goods division, the signing ceremony was attended by the Soviet minister of water and development.

The agreement was signed by Tartar International Trading Co., a Tel Aviv-based firm that represents a number of large government companies. The new joint venture company has already agreed to represent Netafim, the kibbutz manufacturer of drip irrigation equipment, in the Soviet Union.

'Terror Squads' Uncovered in West Bank

TA2610172589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Security forces have uncovered a Fatah squad in the Janin area. One of its detained members admitted to planting bombs in Haifa, 'Afula, and the Ram On moshav. Together with two others, he showed his interrogators the location of another bomb he had hidden.

Another Fatah terror organization was uncovered in Nabulus. Its members were found in possession of weapons and hand grenades. They admitted to throwing firebombs at Israeli soldiers. Two soldiers were injured in one of the incidents. This squad was involved in other terror acts.

Violence, Deaths Reported in Territories

Two Slain in Gaza Strip

TA2510195889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Two murders took place in the Gaza Strip today against the background of suspected collaboration with Israel. A 34-year-old woman resident of the al-Mughazi refugee camp was stabbed to death today.

In another incident, the body of a 29-year-old Arab resident was discovered today in Wadi Ghazzah in the northern part of the Gaza Strip. The man's corpse was found, with bound hands, in the baggage compartment of his car. The police investigation revealed that the man had been kidnapped from his home by masked men several days ago.

Arab residents reported that four people were injured today in various incidents which occurred throughout Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Stones were hurled at cars this evening on the Pat-Gilo road which connects the Gilo neighborhood with central Jerusalem. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that several vehicles were damaged, including a police squad car. There were no casualties, however. Police forces are patrolling the area.

House Demolitions in Gaza

TA2610095189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] A masked Arab youth was killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] fire in the Jabalyah refugee camp. Another masked man was detained in the same place. The incident occurred last night, but was released for publication only now. More on these events from our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv:

A resident of the Jabalyah refugee camp, who wore a mask, was shot and killed by IDF soldiers who encountered a group of masked individuals last night. He is 'Adil Abu-Salim, age 19. A friend of his, who was also masked, was caught and detained in the same clash.

The homes of two residents of the Khan Yunus area were demolished last night by the security forces. The two, Husayn Shihadah Abu-Daqqi from 'Abasan and Salim Hatim Abu-Shahid from Bani Suhaylah, are suspected of violent and cruel attacks against people whom they suspected of assisting Israel. In one case, they even cut off the limbs of those people whom they thought were collaborators.

Palestinians Report 13 Wounded

TA2610101089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Oct 89 p 12

[Report by Mikhal Sela' and Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] According to hospital and Palestinian reports, 13 persons were wounded yesterday in clashes with soldiers in the Strip. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] confirmed one casualty.

In the West Bank, six persons were hurt in clashes with soldiers. [passage omitted]

The Gaza Strip was relatively calm yesterday, except for scattered clashes, military sources said, adding that no injuries were reported.

According to Gaza hospital records, however, seven Palestinians were shot and wounded by steel marbles and live ammunition. In Rafah, a seven-year-old was wounded in the head by a steel marble. Two persons were wounded in Khan Yunus, two in al-Shati', one in Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan quarter and one in Dayr al-Balah.

Bayt Hanun sources reported that a seven-year-old girl was hit by a teargas canister and sustained facial burns.

In the West Bank, Janin remained under a night curfew for the 76th consecutive night, the longest such curfew in the area since the start of the intifada.

Military sources said the long curfew, usually in force from about 4 p.m. till dawn, was imposed in order to reduce unrest in the town in the evening hours. The Gaza Strip has been under extended night curfews, but in no other place in the West Bank has one been imposed for such a long period.

Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin toured Hebron yesterday, where he was briefed by officers on conditions in the town and met with soldiers. Military sources reported that the visit proceeded without incident. But local Palestinians said stones were thrown at the minister's entourage and soldiers used teargas, guns and a helicopter to disperse protesters who burned tyres and set up barricades. An 18-year-old was wounded, Arab reports said.

In Janin, a 25-year-old man was wounded near his store when soldiers opened fire at fleeing stone-throwers, according to local reports. Soldiers rounded up men in the local market and entered homes to make arrests following Tuesday's killing of a local resident who cooperated with Israel.

In other clashes, two persons were reported wounded in Burugin near Janin; a 15-year-old was wounded in 'Awarta, near Nabulus; a 14-year-old was wounded in Nabulus; and a woman was injured at the Tulkarm refugee camp, which remains under curfew. The Balatah camp was under curfew for the fourth day.

In al-Yamun, near Janin, soldiers demolished a house on the grounds that it had been built without a permit. The Civil Administration has stepped up such demolitions during the intifada.

Driver Hits Policeman; Killed

TA2610122289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] This morning an Arab resident of the territories was shot to death after he hit an Israeli police officer with his car in Bethlehem. Our correspondent 'Ido Shargil reports:

Preliminary IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and police reports indicate that an Arab car this morning deliberately hit an Israeli police officer at a police roadblock near the village of al-Khidr, south of Bethlehem. The driver kept on going and refused to stop. A chase took place, and policemen followed the procedures for apprehending suspects.

An Arab youth who was probably the driver of the car was shot and severely wounded. He was taken to a Bethlehem hospital, where he died of his wounds. He is Karim Na'im Dahamsa, age 18, from the al-Duhayshah refugee camp. The police reported that he was driving without a license and that he is a well-known rioter.

The policeman was taken to 'En Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem and is reportedly only slightly wounded. Police teams are still at the site investigating the incident, as some of the circumstances remain unclear.

Gaza Nurse Stabbed to Death

TA2710090589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Oct 89 p 16

[Report by Mikhal Sela' and Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] Masked Palestinian youths entered al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus yesterday and stabbed a nurse to death. In another incident, troops shot and killed a masked Palestinian at the Jabalyah refugee camp.

Palestinian sources said the nurse, Sawfan Abu-al-Husayn, 25, of Khan Yunus, was suspected of cooperating with the Israeli authorities. [passage omitted]

At al-Duhayshah yesterday, troops installed corrugated metal sheets to deter stone-throwing at cars on the road bypassing the camp. [passage omitted]

Palestinians in Nabulus reported that a leaflet signed by Hizballah had been distributed in the city. The numbered handbill was the third Hizballah leaflet issued in the territories in recent months.

King Husayn Returns From Iraqi Celebrations

JN2610064189 Amman Domestic Service in English 0530 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] His majesty the king returned home last night after participating, along with leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council, in the Iraqi people's celebrations in rebuilding al-Faw, the city of great victory.

His majesty was welcomed back by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and His Highness Prince Faysal Ibn-al-Husayn.

Also taking part in welcoming his majesty were his majesty the king's advisers, the chief chamberlain, the private chamberlain, and the senior civil and military officials. The accompanying delegation returned along with his majesty.

The Iraqi president, Saddam Husayn, had seen his majesty off upon his departure from Baghdad. Senior Iraqi civil and military officials and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad were at the airport to see his majesty the king off.

Upon departure from Baghdad, his majesty sent a cable to the Iraqi president in which his majesty expressed his thanks and appreciation for participating the celebrations of rebuilding al-Faw.

In the cable, his majesty paid tribute to the Iraqi people who sacrificed generously in the battle for defending the homeland, the Arab land, and the Arab order.

EC Grants $2.2 Million for Agricultural Loans

JN2610080589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26-27 Oct 89 p 8

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—A grant of $2.2 million will be provided to Jordan from the European Community (EC) under the third protocol signed earlier with the Jordanian government, according to an agreement signed at the Ministry of Planning Wednesday [25 October].

A statement said that the grant will be channelled to small farmers in southern Jordan in the form of loans through the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC).

The ACC last year obtained a medium term loan of $9.6 million from the European Investment Bank, which operates under EC supervision, also to back agricultural endeavours in Jordan.

Planning Minister Ziyad Fariz and the EC delegate in Jordan, Christian Falkowski, signed the agreement at the EC office in Amman.

The agreement follows an accord signed last month in Amman also benefiting agriculture projects in Jordan.

The earlier agreement provides for studies to be done on dams to be built at al-Mawjib valley.

The studies will be financed from an EC grant of nearly JD 1.5 million under the terms of the third protocol signed last year.

Islamic Movement Outlines Election Program

JN2510135689 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 25 Oct 89 p 16

["Program" of the Islamic Movement Bloc candidates for the 8 November parliamentary elections; date not given]

[Text]

Preamble

The Muslim Brotherhood group was established to liberate the Islamic world from foreign domination and to apply the Islamic shari'a. In doing so, it has encountered fierce resistance from the enemies of Islam and their agents. The Muslim Brotherhood offered hundreds of martyrs as a price for that. However, it continued to fight the infidels, hypocrites, and the unjust with hand, tongue, and heart. The Muslim Brotherhood sponsored and defended several Muslim causes, especially the holy Palestine issue. It sent mujahidin and preachers in the thirties and forties to spread the call, enlighten the people, and mobilize them for the jihad.

The Muslim Brotherhood believes that Islam is the sole source of legislation and canonization. Its cry is: God is its objective and it seeks to please Him and abide by His rules; the prophet is its leader and example; jihad is its course, and death for the sake of God is its most sublime wish. Its slogan is: Islam is the solution to all the nation's political, social, economic, and moral problems. Its course is: Reforming the Muslim, then the Muslim family, then the Muslim people, then the Muslim government which will apply God's shari'a, demand what is right, and forbid what is wrong. Thus, it will meet the condition of righteousness, as God said: You are the best of peoples evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong, and believing in God. [Koranic verse]

The group takes this opportunity to remind the brother Muslims in its election program that it considers its presence in parliament as a means to fulfill the nation's mission of power, might, and of applying God's shari'a to uphold rights and spread justice and equality among all people regardless of race and creed. The group does not seek a false, high position, or influence, or any worldly gain. It only wants to be the voice of truth expressing the sufferings of the nation and seeking to achieve its hopes for a respectable life.

The group appeals to your strong faith, hearts, and minds to respond to God's words: Verily, this is My way, leading straight. Follow it. Follow not other paths. They will scatter you about from His great path. [Koranic verse]

Therefore, the group urges you to raise with it the slogan: Islam is the solution.

Elect the group which believes in this slogan, carries its banner, and fights for its sake.

Domestic Policy

Our domestic policy is based on God's shari'a and on carrying out God's rules. God said: And this He commands: Judge thou between them by what God hath revealed, and follow not their vain desires. But beware of them lest they beguile thee from any of that teaching which God hath sent down to thee. [Koranic verse]

God also said: But no, by thy Lord, they can have no real faith, until they make thee judge in all disputes between them, and find in their souls no resistance against thy decisions, but accept them with the fullest conviction. [Koranic verse]

We are confident that all the masses of our people would like very much to see Article 2 of the Jordanian Constitution, which stipulates that Islam is the religion of the state, applied fully in all aspects of their political, economic, military, financial, and educational life.

We believe that all the nations's crises and defeats stem from Islam's absence from our guidance and legislation. God said: Whosoever follows My guidance will not lose his way, nor fall in misery. But whosoever turns aways from My message, verily for him is a life narrowed down. [Koranic verse]

We also believe that the application of Islam makes it incumbent upon Muslims to be good to those with whom they live in their state. God said: God forbids you not, with regard to those who fight you not for (your) faith nor drive you out of your homes, from dealing kindly and justly with them. For God loveth those who are just. [Koranic verse]

Moreover, we believe that our first and most important duty is to exert every effort to revise all existing laws and regulations in Jordan in order to make them conform fully to the Islamic shari'a.

Public Liberties

We believe that securing public liberties is the duty of the state. It should guarantee the freedom of worship and religion for every citizen, and also political and scientific freedoms, the freedom of expression, press, movement, and travel, and man's freedom to work, security, and protection from arbitrary detention.

We also believe that it is the right of every Muslim citizen, and in fact his duty to advocate Islam throughout the country. All news media must be devoted to achieving this noble objective. Invite [all] to the way of the Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching. [Koranic verse]

The Citizen's Dignity Is a Divine Right That Must Be Safeguarded

God has honored Adam, breathed into him something of His spirit, and ordered His angels to prostrate themselves to him. So, the state must safeguard this honor. It also must safeguard his soul, honor, and property, and must not discriminate between one man and another, for all human beings are equal. In this regard, we will seek to achieve the following:

1. To safeguard the citizens' dignity and the sanctity of their blood, property, and honor.
2. We will try to do our utmost to prevent any material or moral harm to any male or female citizen without just cause, and to resist all forms of torture against innocents, all of which Islam forbids.
3. To emphasize every male and female citizen's right to the freedom of thinking, expression, and religion, and that this right must not be confiscated under the cover of extraordinary laws, martial law, or emergency laws. We will call for the abrogation of all laws, regulations, and instructions that conflict with the citizen's freedom of religion, thinking, expression, and other freedoms.
4. To prevent the unjust detention or imprisonment of citizens, especially since the defendant is innocent until he is proven otherwise. This must be practiced by the competent authorities in words and deeds.
5. To try to secure opportunities of lawful earning for all citizens regardless of their opinions or beliefs.
6. To call for the freedom of movement and travel for every citizen inside and outside Jordan regardless of his affiliation and ideology.
7. To emphasize that the passport is the right of every male and female citizen. The passport must not be held and its issuance must not be hampered.
8. To fight bribery and favoritism, to apply justice in employment and promotions, and to punish anyone who takes bribes.
9. To emphasize the right of every citizen, man or woman, not to be detained or imprisoned without a just cause, and to stress his legal right to protest an arrest warrant through legitimate means, and without placing obstacles that would deprive him of this right.

Freedom of the Press

The press has a message which it cannot deliver unless it is free and protected from any pressure or influence from any side. To affirm the role and freedom of the press, we call for the following:

1. To review the press law and cancel any restrictions limiting the freedom of the press. We believe it is necessary to cancel the article giving the government the right to withdraw the license of any paper without presenting any reasons and without having its decision subjected to legal scrutiny.

2. Not to place any indiscriminate restrictions on new magazines and papers to be issued.

3. To safeguard the dignity of journalists, their freedom to perform their press duties, and their right to immunity guaranteeing them peace of mind in performing their journalistic duties, especially in exposing the negative points which harm the country and the citizen, whoever he may be, within the framework of belief in the word of honor and away from personal grudges.

4. To make employment opportunities available to those specializing in media and graduates of journalism colleges at universities.

Freedom of Formation of Trade Union Organizations

We believe in the need to establish trade union organizations, whether labor or professional unions, so that these organizations can carry out the dual role of serving the homeland and the citizen. They serve their members by raising their standard of living, enhancing their intellectual proficiency, and upgrading health care. They also serve the homeland since they are part of the homeland and the citizens.

We will also work to impose respect for the decisions adopted by the general assemblies of trade unions and professional organizations and to prevent their decisions from being dictated by others.

The Economic Situation

Jordan is experiencing a very difficult economic state of affairs which can only be overcome by collective efforts and sincere intentions.

We believe that the most important manifestations of the economic crisis in Jordan can be summed up in the following:

—The heavy debt, which has reached approximately $10 billion, and is the highest rate of indebtedness in the world when compared with population figures. We believe that the first duty of the nation's representatives is to persistently ask the executive authorities to submit correct, detailed statements explaining on which divisions these huge sums have been spent. This is to enable the people—who have every right to know—to find out how the loans were spent, so that they may ask for accountability from the officials who are responsible for mortgaging the future of our sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons; call for the severe punishinment of this criminal group so that we may learn the necessary lessons and not be deceived by these economic schemes in the future; and study ways to end this nightmarish indebtedness.

—The drop in the dinar's value. The Jordanian people have suffered greatly from the sudden, sharp drop in the dinar's value. The group that is behind this drop is the only one that has benefited from it. Their wealth increased, as can be witnessed by the sleek cars, worth tens of thousands of dinars, that their teenage sons and daughters drive, and by their villas, which cost millions. The representatives of the people are also duty-bound to seek clarifications from the executive authorities on the real reasons for the drop in the dinar's value and the misuse of foreign currencies and gold in the Central Bank, and to call for bringing those responsible to trial and inflict on them the just punishment they deserve, as well as to seek the means that would restore stability to the dinar, and thus return stability to the lives of the citizens in Jordan.

—Smuggling billions of dollars abroad. Billions of dollars have been smuggled outside of the country. This in itself has been a principal cause for the drop in the dinar's value. The representatives of the nation must expose the group that was responsible for this, carry out an inventory of these billions and determine where they are deposited, and submit the necessary draft bills for returning this money and bringing those responsible for this crime to trial.

—Inflation and price hikes. The economic situation in Jordan is going through a stage of inflation and increasing prices for various reasons. Some of these reasons are the greed of the monopolists and exploiters, who should be deterred without exception whether friend or relative. The just regulations should be applied to them all so that they will return to their senses. The representatives should find the necessary means to decrease prices so that low-income Jordanian citizens (who are the majority of Jordan's citizens) will be able to provide themselves and their families with sufficiency and dignity.

—Unemployment. Unemployment has now spread among the Jordanian youth at an unprecedented level. One of the first duties of the representatives is to study this dangerous situation and work with the executive authority to find solutions to this problem. This requires delving into the heart of the matter and removing all the barriers that might stand in the way of a solution, because the results of unemployment are disastrous. Its simplest result is robbery, crime, and a decline in marriage and the society's growth. It also reflects on education and morals. "Poverty can hardly be distinguished from heresy." [quotation marks as published]

—The great disparity in the income of individuals. The major reasons for this disparity is the state of indiscipline which has spread among the morals of some people and the abundance of the slothful, unproductive groups which depend either on the government's jobs or illegal gains, briberies, or commissions. They exploit anything without thought or control and in the absence of the honest executive authority. If the necessary measures are not taken to curb unemployment, the result will be widespread hatred and grudges, which will be a reason for angry explosions in society.

To be able to work toward improving the economic situation in Jordan, the following measures are necessary:

First: The Economic Sectors and Investment

—We call for developing the public sector, reforming it on new grounds, and purifying it from corrupt thieves and lazy sloths.
—We call for developing the mixed sector by building confidence between the investors and the government so that the government will benefit from the citizen's efforts and resources and, in turn, he will benefit from its support and services.
—We call for protecting private property and encouraging private investments.
—We call for organizing importation, exportation, and industry within a balanced and well-researched national plan.
—We call for protecting local production and not resorting to importation, except on the most limited scale possible and only if a local alternative is not available.
—We call for stopping the squandering of currency on banned or undesireable goods, which are detrimental to the health and waste time such as alcohol, cigarettes, decoration materials, and similar luxuries.
—We call for changing our society's consumerist lifestyle and transforming it into a production-geared society which will eat what it plants, wear what it manufactures, and defend the homeland with weapons made by its own sons.
—We work toward developing the spirit of belonging and self-respect.
—We call for increasing reliance on ourselves and our sons' experiences, and for stopping the use of foreign experts who deplete our finances and attempt to stultify the sons of the nation and ruin its economy.

Second: Agriculture

—We will work to reclaim and plant all agricultural lands, give the wasteland to those who cultivate it, and benefit from the modern methods of fertilization and irrigation.
—We will work to develop pastures and forests to increase animal wealth, enhance the country, improve the climate, and protect the environment.
—We will work to develop water and energy resources, exploit them in a good manner, and make them available to people at reasonable prices. "People are partners in three things—water, grass, and fire." [quotation marks as published]
—We call for linking the agricultural sector with the industrial sector to benefit from the good seasons and to overcome the distribution problems plaguing some agricultural produce.

Third: Industry

—We call for developing light and medium industry and encouraging the handicraft, cottage, and vocational industries to increase the individual's income, meet the nation's needs, and establish the infrastructure of the developing industry.
—We call for coordination among the Arab and Islamic countries to develop heavy industry, including a weapons industry.

Fourth: The Tax System

—We call for reviewing the tax system to achieve equality between the wealthy and the poor and for distributing tax revenues among the governorates fairly.
—We work to end the wasted taxes resulting from appeasement, negligence of presenting accounts, forgery, and presenting false and misleading statements.

Fifth: The Zakat [alms] and Sources of Income

—We call for imposing the zakat and spend it legally to close the gap between the wealthy and poor. This will turn the entire society into a society of sufficiency and production and remove the social classes within a short period of time.

Sixth: The Monetary and Banking System

—We call for banning usury in all its forms because it is a negative and materialistic method of economic dealing that aims at making guaranteed profit without taking into consideration the consequences and the interests of the individuals and society and because it is a direct reason for the ongoing economic crisis.

—We call for refraining from outside borrowing, regardless of the circumstances, and for working effectively to repay the accumulated debts of this country by activating the nation; strengthening its affiliation to its sons; canceling unproductive projects; stopping unproductive and destructive activities such as festivals, celebrations, and the circus; annulling some unnecessary institutions; and planning our expenditures.

—We call for combating and curbing inflation and returning to the principle of backing our currency with gold in order to avoid the decline in the value of the dinar and the negative external effects on it.

—We work to fight unemployment and make available new job opportunities inside and outside the country.

Seventh: Squandering, Extravagance, and Forbidden Gains

—We call for combating extravagance and all forms of squandering and luxury, applying the principle of interdiction on the money of spendthrifts, and dealing with this money in accordance with the provisions of the true shari'a.
—We will work to annul all privileges that were acquired as a result of exploiting responsibility and positions and to take into account all persons who have accumulated huge wealth illegally.

—We call for combating and banning all illegal means of profit, such as gambling, monopoly, amassment of gold, silver, and currencies, as well as illegal deals. We also call for placing matters in their proper places.
—We call for cutting public expenditures, abolishing the unnecessaery establishments, and combating underemployment.
—We call for drafting a law on illegal gains to bring to account any person suspected of compiling a fortune illegally or through exploiting his post or job.

Eighth: Natural Resources

—We call for continued digging for natural resources and for activating these operations by relying on local, Arab, and Islamic expertise.
—We call for promoting work techniques and providing trained and effective local cadres to pursue operations of exploration and detection.
—We call for rationalized and proper exploitation of the discovered resources, such as phosphate, cement, potash, glass sand, water, oil, gas, and other resources in order to maintain them for as long as possible.
—We call for exploiting the available conventional and new sources of energy such as oil, gas, solar energy, wind energy, and water resources. We call for reducing the wasted energy as a result of extravagance and costly festivals.

The Educational and Academic Situation

We believe that the educational and academic situation in our country has been experiencing many successive crises. The educational and administratives apparatuses as well as curricula and teachers are facing many crises. This necessitates huges efforts by us in this regard. We will work for following:
—Stressing compulsory education at all levels.
—The educational policy should be based on the solid ground of faith in Almighty God, raising generations on the nation's great religion of Islam, and maintaining the nation's glorious language.
—Stressing equal opportunities in the educational field for everyone without exception.
—Expanding university education and directing it toward meeting the needs of the society and developing it.
—Focusing on the Arab-Islamic character and its integration through analyzing its components. Elements should be added to the curricula to contribute toward rebuilding of this character.
—Looking for means of finance to education and considering this one of the society's maior tasks.
—Avoiding education by rote and adopting modern educational techniques based on encouraging research and exploration, developing students' leadership skills, and focusing on the freedom of education.
—Establishing a link between schools and society so that the school takes part in building a developing the local community.
—Giving special attention to basic education and concentrating on basic education courses.
—Highlighting the teaching profession's ethics, valuing the teacher's work in a manner befitting his position, and improving his standard of living.
—Expanding the range of private schools with supervision of the quality of education and wages of teachers.
—Increasing opportunities for higher education at Jordanian community colleges and universities to reduce the citizens' burden and save hard currency.
—Revising the curricula and textbooks in various subjects by removing all that is contrary to Islamic tenets and focusing on the noble Islamic values.
—Providing the opportunity for efficient and honest persons to assume leadership positions in the ministries of education and higher education.
—Supplying the school libraries with important religious and reference books to acquaint the students with the nation's cultural heritage throughout its long history, and to give the students the opportunity of reviewing the writings of modern Islamic authors.
—Resisting coeducation at universities and community colleges, explaining its harmful effects and dangerous role in perverting the youths within the educational institutions.
—Reviving the scientific and educational heritage filling libraries in the east and the west because we are more responsible than others for preserving this heritage. Thus, our generation and those seeking knowledge in the entire world will be able to benefit from it.
—Conducting scientific research on the basis of our religion in a manner leading to progress and prosperity, and to discovering the secrets of nature, the universe, and the signs of Almighty God. Soon will we show them our signs in the farthest regions of the earth, and in their own souls, until it becomes manifest to them that this is the truth. [Koranic verse]. Therefore, we will work toward encouraging scientific research and opening its horizons to our generation, enabling our nation to assume a proper position among other nations in the fields of science and scientific research.

The Condition of the Media

An examination of our media will indicate that in our country, the mass media such as television, broadcasting, newspapers and magazines follow a line different from that of Islamic law and ethics. They transmit many programs that are contrary to Islamic moral codes such as showing films and theatricals which constitute an open violation of the Islamic law's spirit, display nearly nude pictures, and peddle numerous taboo products. All this leaves a negative impact on the generation and it requires immediate action to reform the media. We believe that the media can be reformed through many ways, most important of which are:

1. Choosing efficient men to assume responsibility for media organs. Efficiency means two things: first, honesty and piety; and second, proper scientific qualifications.
2. Establishing programs that are useful to people in this life and in the hereafter.

3. Forming committees to direct the mass media in accordance with Islamic law and ethics.
4. Forming committees to monitor all that is published, approving what is held as useful, and banning what is believed to be harmful.
5. Preventing advertisements in television, radio, and the press which highlight all sacrilegious things.
6. Cleansing the radio and television programs of all perverse items, lewd and notorious songs, and sacrilegious dancing, and imposing tight restrictions on showing foreign films, particularly American pictures that highlight and praise violence, adultery, and degeneration.
7. Banning the publication of pornographic materials or lecherous dancing advertisements.
8. Banning any book that slanders Islam, the prophet, peace be upon him, or his associates, or misrepresents historical facts, and banning any other foreign publications showing nude pictures.

The Social Situation

To elevate our society to the standard of our aspirations of loftiness and high quality, we affirm that the rules for reforming our society should be based on the following:

1. Declaring brotherhood among the people, because no individual is superior to another either financially or in type, race, or origin. All human beings belong to Adam, and Adam is from the earth. This principle has been fully implemented for 14 centuries under Islam. Under materialistic culture, humanity still suffers from racial discrimination in the United States, Africa, and others of God's vast countries.

2. Developing both men and women and announcing equal rights for both. The woman has the right to own property, work, and participate in developing the society within the limits set by Islam, on condition that this does not overwhelm the duty of the woman toward her home, husband, and children. Woman is man's partner as God's prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him, said. Almighty God says: The believers, men and women, are protectors, one of another: They enjoin what is just and forbid what is evil [Koranic verse]

3. Protecting and taking care of childhood in upbringing, nutritional care, mental and physical education, and educational guidance. Banning the exploitation of children in types of work that might harm them and forbidding their employment before they reach the legal age.

4. Taking care of orphans, providing them with guardianship, bringing them up properly as though they were living in their parents' homes so that they will not suffer from bad effects, which might reflect on them and on society.

5. Encouraging marriage, supporting it, and overcoming all that might stand in its way, such as financial or other obstacles.

6. Protecting the family and providing it with care and attention. Islam established the family system on sound bases. It provides guidance toward good choices, portrays the best methods for bonds, defines rights and duties, deals with the problems of married life, and finally draws up a moderate standard free of excesses.

7. Providing people with the basic essentials such as food, clothing, medication, electricity, and transportation which has become an insoluble problem and must necessarily be dealt with by setting a comprehensive program for it.

8. Providing medical care for citizens and putting an end to the spread of disease by eradicating its natural and moral roots, and giving priority to this issue on the reform ladder. According to God's doctrine, warding off sources of corruption is more important than reaping benefits, along with maintaining freedom of choice in medical care and treatement.

9. Every citizen has the right to a home he can find shelter in, food, marriage, and security in the cases of old age, inability to work, or accumulation of debt. Social security, according to Islam, is a duty which the state must perform and from which the citizen receives his right.

10. Providing work to all those capable. Work is right and honorable whenever possible. [sentence as published] God's prophet, David, used to live off the products of his labor.

11. Eradicating illiteracy and ending it in accordance with a researched plan defining the time period, the sufficient budget, and all means of implementation to rid the country of illiteracy.

12. Declaring war on corruption in all its forms and establishing laws that deter the corrupt and guarantee the protection of society from corruption by taking the following measures:

—Combating the means for moral deviation and punishing the committers of sin.
—Combating gambling in all its forms, including games, lottery, competitions, and other types, since they are considered illegal gains condemned by Islam.
—Combating drugs ruthlessly and increasing the punishment for smuggling, trading, or using them.
—Banning alcoholic drinks—the manufacture, use, and dealing in alcohol.
—Resisting moral degeneration represented by bawdiness and use of makeup.
—Closing down dance halls, clubs, hotels, and others.

The Military Situation

Our Islamic Arab nation, which is facing plots and intrigues, has one option only: that is, to become a militant nation. We are a militant nation in nature, and our responsibility is to achieve rights and promote the word of God in obedience of God's order: "Go ye forth,

whether equipped lightly or heavily, and strive and carry out jihad, with your goods and your persons, in the cause of God." [Koranic verse]

In light of this distinguished characteristic of our nation, particularly the continuous jihad to achieve the rights and to prevent injustice, we believe that our military policy should be based on the following:

1. The need for preparing and mobilizing the nation for jihad under all circumstances and in all fields in obedience of God's saying: "Against them, make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into the hearts of the enemies of God and your enemies, and others besides, whom ye may not know, but whom God doth know, shall be repaid by you, and ye shall not be treated unjustly." [Koranic verses]

2. We call for adopting the principle of jihad and opening the path for the sons of the nation to defend the Islamic countries and advocate the call for Islam. We focus on the need for opening the doors of jihad to liberate Palestine. This requires the opening of all fronts adjacent to Palestine to anyone who seeks jihad on the blessed soil of Palestine from all over the Islamic homeland.

3. We call for supporting the jihad of our people in Palestine with all potentials and capabilities and for providing their blessed intifadah with all military methods that can help them develop their jihad into an armed confrontation with the Zionist enemy. And this must be backed by Arab and Islamic readiness to enter the major battle against the Zionist enemy—the battle that will certainly come to confirm the good news of the leader of the mujahidin of Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him. Al-Bukhari quoted 'Abdallah Ibn-'Umar as saying: "I heard the messenger of God, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, saying: The Jews will fight you and you will hold sway over them. He then said: O Muslim, hold a stone, there is a Jew behind me, kill him."

4. We call for Arab and Islamic cooperation to develop military industries that will break the monopoly of the foreign countries that harbor evil toward our nation.

5. We reiterate the Islamic principle affirming that weapons alone do not decide the battle; but that this weapon must be carried by a chaste, courageous, solid arm of the believer who grew up in the Islamic school of jihad and learned from the holy Koran.

6. We call for supporting our armed forces with their needs of modern weapons and ammunition and for spreading the spirit of jihad among their ranks.

The Palestine Question

According to the Islamic shari'a, Palestine is a blessed and sacred land where there is the al-Aqsa mosque, the third holy mosque, in which a prayer equals 500 prayers in other mosques, except the mosques of Mecca and al-Madinah. The al-Aqsa mosque is the place where the messenger of God made his midnight journey. The companions of the prophet liberated this mosque from the filth of polytheism, and the Muslims under Salah al-Din liberated it from the crusaders. Since the beginning of the 20th century, the mosque fell under British and then Jewish occupation, so the Muslims in Palestine and the Arab countries stood up to resist the two occupations and offered thousands of martyrs to defend the sacred land.

However, the conspiracies were stronger than the efforts of the honest men, and Palestine is still under the occupation, calling for help. Our concept of tackling and solving the Palestine question stems from the following bases:

—The land of Palestine is an Islamic land and it belongs to the Muslims until the end of the world. It is forbidden to concede one inch, regardless of any justifications and pressures.
—The Zionist entity in Palestine is a usurper whose existence will vanish, no matter how long it takes; it is an alien entity that represents a dangerous civilization that opposes Islamic civilization. This Zionist entity was established by colonialist plots that are linked with the interests of major countries led by the United States and Britain.
—The overall jihad is the only path to liberate Palestine from the Zionist invaders and those behind them. And the Islamic peoples are the backers of the Muslim Palestinian people; and the Islamic territories, particularly the territories of the confrontation states, are the bases of this jihad.
—The Islamic movement believes that the liberation of all Palestine is the most important sacred duty.

The Position Toward Recent Developments

We believe that all peace initiatives—be they American, Zionist, Arab, or Palestinian—will face devastating failure because these initiatives are far from the true aspirations of the Islamic nation and its inalienable rights to the land of Islamic Palestine and because they embody a self-deception in understanding the Zionist movement's real objectives.

—There is no use in hoping for anything from the U.S. stand, which is largely identical to the Jewish stand. Therefore, the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is a waste of time and aims to cool the heat of the inevitable confrontation with the enemies of Islam in Palestine.
—All UN resolutions—particularly Resolutions 181, 242, and 338—which call for any concession of the Islamic land in Palestine are, by the standard of right and justice and from an Islamic perspective, are rejected and considered null and void.
—The international conference is an enormous trick and a cloak under which the Arab regimes might concede large parts of the land of Palestine, approve conciliation with the Zionist enemy and the consequent normalization, and allow the enemies of God to have power in the Muslims' land.

—Negotiating with the Zionist enemy, which usurps the Muslims' land, to concede the Muslims' land and right is rejected by Islamic shari'a and anyone who calls for this or moves in that direction is a sinner.
—Shamir's elections plan must be fiercely resisted because it constitutes a clear means to divert attention from the intifadah in order to besiege and destroy it. Any other liquiditory plan or initiative, which falls in the trend that has the same objective as that of Shamir's plan, must be confronted, even if these initiatives carry Arab names.
—Supporting the blessed intifadah and entrenching and developing it so that it can constitute the beginning of the road toward launching the continuous jihad to liberate the entire Palestinian soil. We will not tire of this even if it takes many long decades. In this, we follow the example of the Muslim mujahidin throughout Islamic history. This calls for massing all Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic resources under the banner of Islam.
—Transcending verbal support to tangible support on official and popular levels by adjusting the situations in the Arab and Islamic states so that they come as close as possible to the situation in which the Muslim people in Palestine live—jihad, arrests, starvation, injuries, and martyrdom —so that these states will form a single body; if an organ is hurt, all the other organs will help it recover.
—Frontline states must be considered forward positions from which to liberate Palestine. Their populations must be mobilized for jihad in preparation for the hour of attack and liberation.

On Arab, Islamic, and Foreign Policy

On Arab policy, we believe that in pre-Islamic times, Arabs were warring tribes which raided each other. Some of them were agents for the Persians, others for the Romans. Islam then came and united them under the banner of Islam, and they became leaders of the caravan after they had been trailing behind it. They continued to lead it for many centuries.

At the beginning of the 20th century, they became weak, petty states, and until today they have remained fragmented.

We say that the nation should never continue to be trapped in the quagmires of fragmentation and division, while it has the fundamentals necessary for unity. It has the unity of belief, language, geography, and history. It also has the unity of objectives, hopes, and pains, and the unity of the dangers which threaten it. Integration and coordination in distributing its agricultural and oil wealth will help unite it under the banner of Islam in the same way it became united during the time of the prophet, may God's blessings be upon him and his followers.

We will seek to achieve the unity of the Arab peoples in one nation under the banner of Islam through the following means:

1. Emphasizing loyalty and affiliation to the creed of monotheism.
2. Fighting all racist movements advocating the division of this nation.
3. Fighting sectarianism, regionalism, and bigotry that lead to the separation and disintegration of the nation.
4. Introducing unified Islamic educational curricula.
5. Facilitating travel and movement of people in the Arab countries by lifting the imposed restrictions, which deepen divisions and harm unity.
6. Acting toward the establishment of a common Arab market as a nucleus of an Islamic market.
7. Concluding cooperation agreements among the Arab countries.
8. Supporting jihad movements in the Arab world.

On Islamic Policy

We believe that Islam unified the various races—Arabs and non-Arabs—in one nation. All races contributed to the building of the Islamic state, and this nation had continued to be united and live happily for several centuries.

However, internal and external factors emerged and tore the Islamic nation into various peoples and nationalities. These divisions deepened in the 20th century, resulting in various problems.

The correct method of solving the problems of this nation is through its unity under the banner of the great Islam. This is the cure for all its illnesses and the fortified barrier in the face of all enemy conspiracies, protecting the nation from the rancor of colonialism, crusaders, and Zionism, and from atheism and promiscuity.

It is not appropriate for a nation that Almighty God from above seven heavens described as one nation—"Verily, this brotherhood of yours is a single brotherhood, and I am your Lord and cherisher; therefore, serve me (and no other)" [Koranic verse]—to continue to sink in the quagmire of divisions and fragmentation, especially in a world where only large, strong forces can have influence. Europe, in a few years, will virtually become one homeland and one nation.

The nation of Islam has all the constituents and causes of unity. How long will it continue to be divided?

We deeply believe that Arab unity is the first step; indeed, the strong foundations on which comprehensive Islamic unity should be based. We call upon all sincere people to work toward the unity of the Arab nation within a united Arab homeland as a prelude for uniting the Islamic nation in a unified Islamic homeland able to face the giants of the East and the West as equals.

We will seek to achieve the following:

1. Promoting Islamic bonds among Muslims.
2. Propagating the Arabic language.
3. Encouraging cultural, commercial, technical, administrative, and military exchange.

4. Facilitating procedures of movement and travel throughout the Islamic world.
5. Fighting racist and ethnic movements that divide Muslims.
6. Uniting educational curricula or bringing them closer.
7. Deepening loyalty and affiliation to the creed of monotheism and the need to apply the Islamic shari'a.
8. Supporting jihad movements in the Islamic world.
9. Recognizing the mujahidin state in Afghanistan

On Foreign Policy

We believe that the East and West have helped in building the state of the Jews on the blessed land of Palestine. We also believe that they drained the Islamic world's wealth through a number of evil colonialist methods. Our nation must therefore work seriously and actively to break free of the cultural, economic, social, political, and military hegemony of those states. Our nation must also determine its relations with the states in the world in light of Islam's rules and instructions. We will endeavor to achieve the following:

1. To make people in our country aware of the nature of these states, expose their hostile, malicious methods, and warn the nation of their dangers.
2. To boycott the states which support or ally themselves with the state of the Jews—economically, politically, and culturally.
3. To stop supplying oil to the states which collaborate with the Jews.
4. To strengthen relations with the states which cooperate with us for the benefit of Muslim issues.
5. To support all liberation movements in the Islamic world and to support those subjected to injustice, whoever they may be.
6. To endeavor seriously for Joradan's recognition of the mujahidin state in Afghanistan.
7. To support different Islamic issues, both materially and morally.
8. To make the nation aware of the danger posed by the missionary, communist, and Freemasonry movements and their clubs by publishing leaflets, books, and articles in newspapers and magazines throughout the world in more than one language and in more than one state.

Conclusion

Brother and sister voters: This is our election program, which we adhere to and present to the people, pledging before Almighty God to exert our utmost efforts to implement it. We hope that it will receive the confidence of every male and female voter in our blessed country.

Brother and sister voters: Voting is a trust which must be delivered fully to those who are worthy of it. Voting is a testimony which must be made, and it is forbidden to conceal it. Almighty God has said: Faithfully discharge His trust, and let him fear His Lord. Conceal not evidence; for, whoever conceals it, his heart is tainted with sin. [Koranic verse]

Testimony must be made rightfully without appeasement to any relative or those who have personal interest. Almighty God has said: Ye who believe, stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to God, even against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin. [Koranic verse]

The voter is required to choose the candidate who has faith, knowledge, and experience and who is courageous and fears no one but God. If good candidates are more than the required number, voters must choose the best, irrespective of relationship, personal interest, or tribal considerations. The prophet has said: Anyone who makes another govern while, among Muslims, there are those who are better, then he will have betrayed God, His prophet, and the believers.

Brother and sister voters: We are certain that you cling to this religion and take guidance from it. Adopt this slogan with us: Islam is the solution. God has said: O ye who believe, give your response to God and His apostle when he calleth you to that which will give you life. [Koranic verse].

Let us all choose the candidates of the Islamic call which raise this slogan and present this program. God is our guide to the right path.

First Constituency [Amman]: Dr Majid Muhammad Khalifah and 'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr.
Second Constituency: Dr 'Ali al-Hawamidah and Shaykh 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zanat.
Third Constituency: Judge Ghalib Abu-'Abbud Hiyasat, and Walid Shukri Shabsugh for the Circassian seat.
Fourth Constituency: Hamzah 'Abbas al-Mansur.
Fifth Constituency: Dr Hammam Sa'id, Dr Muhammad Abu-Faris, and Dawud Qawjaq for the Circassian seat.
Sixth Constituency: Eng Ahmad Qutaysh and 'Abd-al-Hafiz 'Allawi.
Irbid: Dr Ahmad al-Kufahi, Kamil al-'Umari, and Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ukur.
Al-Tafilah: Dr 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah and Eng Fua'd Mustafa Khalafat.
Al-Karak: Ahmad al-Kafawin.
Al-Mafraq: Pharmacist Farid Furayj.
'Ajlun: Eng Khalid al-Qudat.
Al-Zarqa': Shaykh Dhib Anis and Dr Muhammad Ahmad al-Haj.
Al-Balqa': Dr 'Abd-al-Latif Sulayman 'Arabiyat and Ibrahim al-Mas'ud Khuraysat.
Northern Jordan Valley and al-Kurah: Shaykh Mahmud Muhammad al-Natur.
Jarash: Pharmacist Ibrahim 'Ar'arawi.

Columnist Attacks Islamic Bloc Election Program

JN2610124989 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
26 Oct 89 p 22

["Highlights" column by Dr Fahd al-Fanik: "The Economic Situation in the Islamic Bloc's Program"]

[Text] The program of the "Islamic Movement Bloc" candidates is presented in large, full-page advertisements

in the daily newspapers. The page is topped with impressive slogans, such as: God is our goal, The prophet is our example, and Islam is the solution. This is not a cause for dispute and does not make the bloc's candidates different from other candidates, unless they claim that God, the prophet, and Islam belong to them alone.

I read the headlines of the program to see how these candidates presented the "Islamic" solution. I discovered that they offer no new analysis or beneficial solutions. I could not understand where the Islamic freedom of the press and freedom to form professional, youth, and student organizations lie. Has God, for instance, allowed press and professional unions, but forbidden parties?

I quickly moved to the part on the economy because I thought I would find there the Islamic solution to the problems of development, foreign debt, unemployment, the dinar's instability, distribution of the national income, the priorities of the private and public sectors, and so forth. I discovered that these subjects were indeed covered in the program, which was satisfied with repeating Arabic rhetoric that means nothing in practice and which has no connection with Islam.

Regarding the foreign debt, the program demands "correct, detailed statements explaining the chapters [of the budget] of expenditure." We know that the bloc's deputies in the previous Parliament were aware of these chapters and agreed to all foreign debts that were submitted to the House and which were passed by law. Their reservation then was that interest was forbidden by Islamic law and we must search for interest-free loans. The program believes that the remedy to the problem lies in "studying the necessary means to end this indebtedness." We do not know why they did not study, and then tell us, these means.

They explain that the drop in the dinar's exchange rate has been caused by the existence of a group that has cars driven by their teenage sons and daughters, especially daughters. Therefore, the issue of the dinar's stability has become an issue of teenage girls driving cars. For them, the solution is to "find the necessary means to achieve the dinar's stability." And, God only knows what these means are.

The program talks about the flight of capital. But this time, it gives a specific solution—which we wished it had not. The program says "representatives of the nation must carry out an inventory of these sums and determine where they are deposited, and submit the necessary draft bills for returning these billions." It seems that those who wrote the program think we are so naive as to believe that fleeing capital can be returned so easily.

The program explains the cause of inflation as being the greed of monopolists and exploiters and demands a "study of unemployment and finding solutions to it." The program rejects the large differences in incomes and calls for improving the public sector, developing the mixed sector, and encouraging the private sector—take your pick. It also calls for formulating a "thorough and balanced" plan for industrialization and for not importing cosmetics.

Candidates of the Islamic solution are asked to offer something what will benefit people, not to offer something of no use.

Paper Calls Al-Ta'if Accord 'Real Opportunity'

JN2410103689 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
24 Oct 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Lebanon Chooses"]

[Text] With the approval of the Lebanese national accord document by the vast majority of the Lebanese deputies meeting in al-Ta'if, a real opportunity, which has never been witnessed during the past 14 years, has presented itself to rescue Lebanon. This event indicates that the Lebanese people have chosen life, national unity, sovereignty, Arabism, and the establishment of the basis of a democratic dialogue over gun battles as the course that will lead to a solution based on common convictions.

Although the agreement does not meet all the wishes of all sides representing the Lebanese people, it has come up with what satisfies the more important option and succeeded in attracting them toward it with a majority that is close to unanimity. Thus, the Lebanese people have expressed their will through their legitimate representatives. In view of this, all Lebanese leaders must respect this will, especially since this respect is the sole source of legitimacy for any Lebanese leadership in the present circumstances.

In addition, it can be said that any leader who tries to abort this agreement or hampers its implementation will separate himself from the base, and will bear serious responsibility toward all the Lebanese and all the Arabs.

Nobody in Lebanon can claim that his will is above that of the Lebanese people. Likewise, nobody can claim that he is more concerned about the interests of the people in Lebanon than the Lebanese people themselves. Therefore, it is time the Lebanese leaders bowed to the will of the Lebanese people and began serious work to translate this will into results crystalizing the national accord.

Needless to say, this accord is a victory for all the Lebanese. It is a start for Lebanon to recover from its crisis and assume its position as an oasis of democracy, alongside its constructive role in the region.

All Arabs who love Lebanon welcome the choice of the Lebanese deputies and find in it the sunrise that breaks through the thick darkness that lasted almost 15 years. All Arabs and those who love Lebanon look forward to the march toward reconstruction, healing its wounds, and restoring happiness to its sons. If those that love Lebanon fear anything, it is that this opportunity might be wasted. They sincerely pray that the will of the

Lebanese people will dissipate this fear and triumph by adhering to the choice of life.

Soviet Stand on Palestinian Issue Questioned

JN1810114489 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
18 Oct 89 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Analysis and Frankness"]

[Text] In a realistic analysis stemming from a thorough and comprehensive view of the conditions currently prevailing the region, his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan chose to focus on a number of fundamental facts related to Jordan's pan-Arab role in defending the Palestinian cause. He also focused on the threats facing the occupied territories, foremost of which is the new wave of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. His royal highness underlined all these facts during his meeting yesterday with Jordanian journalists working in foreign press establishments.

The distinguishing feature of this analysis is his highness' frankness with our family and with all those concerned with these facts. This was evident when he said that the difficult financial conditions which Jordan has experienced were the price imposed on Jordan for its commitment to its honorable stand on the Palestine question. His highness also said that this stand is stronger than any pressure and that Jordan is always capable of foiling any attempts to undermine its role. It is no secret that this frankness is the result of facts, not speculation, and that its content implies an important indication; namely, that Jordan is determined to be always a bastion which protects Arabism, and that any support Jordan receives from its brothers will strengthen this Arabism.

At the same time, his highness also chose to draw attention to a dangerous Israeli practice embodied in the attempts of some Israeli aggressors to transform the occupied territories into a market for their products to compensate for the cost they incur as a result of their occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. It is no secret also that this notice will expose this practice and drive the owners of the West Bank to resist and foil it.

His highness also did not forget to sound the alarm warning against the wave of Jewish emigration, which includes some 200,000 emigrants coming from the Soviet Union. His highness pointed out that the United States had imposed restrictions to prevent these emigrants from entering its territories, that the United States intends only to absorb 18,000 of the emigrants, and that a small number of them might head toward western states. This means that the majority of this flood will be heading for Israel and the occupied territories, thereby causing demographical changes there, which will reflect on the Palestinian people who stand fast on their land.

This danger and its implications inevitably pose questions about the Soviet stand which supports the Palestinian cause: Has the Soviet Union abandoned one of its most important mechanisms in checking the emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories? Is this development intended to enforce a new reality there and is this move part of the rapprochement between Moscow and Washington?

For all these reasons, the Arabs are asked to view this move seriously and to exert a strong, joint effort which will make the Soviet Union change its opinion about the danger of exporting Soviet Jews to the occupied territories and to the whole region. This danger can never contribute to reactivating the peace process. In fact, it will open the doors to unforeseen complications in the region.

Continued Reportage on Reaction to Al-Ta'if

Paris Paper Interviews Gen 'Awn

PM2710065689 Paris LE FIGARO in French 25 Oct 89 p 4

[Interview with Christian leader Michel 'Awn by Thierry Desjardins in Beirut on 24 October]

[Excerpt] Beirut—[Passage omitted] LE FIGARO: International opinion found it difficult to understand your categorical rejection of the al-Ta'if agreement approved by the Lebanese deputies.

Michel 'Awn: I did not categorically reject the agreement. Quite the reverse; I accept all the institutional reforms. I am not concerned with whether they are good or bad. That is an internal Lebanese affair. If everybody agrees, I bow to it. Even if they had decided that the president should no longer be a Maronite, I would have accepted it. Allow me to make things clear: I accept the whole institutional aspect of the al-Ta'if agreement; the internal Lebanese problem has now been solved. Moreover, the deputies had the authority to solve it.

LE FIGARO: That leaves the problem of the Syrian withdrawal. You surely could not have hoped that a compromise would make them leave overnight and that a discussion could secure what you have not achieved by arms.

Michel 'Awn: The agreement mentions a vague redeployment, and then, 2 years after the establishment of new institutions, a withdrawal. How long will all that take? It will take "x" plus 2 years. I want to know what this "x" represents. No, a precise timetable with a map should have been drawn up in al-Ta'if, stating that on a specific day there would be a withdrawal from specific places. We had to know.

LE FIGARO: Damascus repeatedly states, however, that there can be no Syrian withdrawal until a real Lebanese army has been formed and while Israel occupies part of southern Lebanon.

Michel 'Awn: Since 1976, none of my predecessors has been able to form the Lebanese army because the Syrians opposed it; they do not want a strong Lebanese army precisely because they want to remain here. In addition, the Syrians entered Lebanon before the Israelis. The Israeli presence is therefore a pretext, not a reason. Also, what action are these Syrians taking against the Israelis?

LE FIGARO: What will happen now? In principle, the deputies will return from al-Ta'if, but after insulting them, you threatened them....

Michel 'Awn: Let them return! I invite them all here. I guarantee their safety. Even those I described as "Petains..." they are welcome, because they can still retract. The al-Ta'if document has not been ratified. Let them come here to explain to us how this document can guarantee Lebanon's sovereignty. I invite them to have a public debate with lawyers and journalists. I will place all my resources at their disposal. Let them convince us and convince themselves. If they are convincing, we may all agree. Before the al-Ta'if meeting, I saw them and said: You can do everything to introduce institutional reforms, and choose the future president (I will not be a candidate), everything except play with the country's sovereignty.

LE FIGARO: But are you not now an obstacle to the hope of peace?

Michel 'Awn: I am an obstacle to surrender and to any agreement which does not respect my life, my dignity, and my presence....

LE FIGARO: Are you talking about your presence in the presidential palace?

Michel 'Awn: No, I mean Lebanon's life, its dignity, its existence. I apologize for this revealing slip, but I identify completely with Lebanon.

LE FIGARO: Are you not playing into the partitionists' hands by rigidly adhering to your positions?

Michel 'Awn: Quite the reverse; I am fighting for the whole of Lebanon. I have always said Lebanon is too small to be divided and too big to be swallowed.

LE FIGARO: In principle, the deputies will elect a new president of the Republic on their return. What will you do?

Michel 'Awn: Before there can be a president, there must be a republic. I defend the Republic, and they have given up everything, like somebody who is afraid of dying and who gives up his wife, his house, and his goods. They will have to explain their actions, and define the Syrian Army's role and future. After that, we will see. But a country has never been saved by cowards.

LE FIGARO: Are you not afraid of being very isolated in the international sphere?

Michel 'Awn: France and the Vatican will remain loyal to Lebanon. The Americans have never changed, and things are now clearer. People did not believe that Washington was exerting pressure on the Lebanese to give up their country. The people have now understood. The American plot could not be implemented in Lebanon, because part of the country was still free. So the Americans took the deputies down there as hostages, and the plot was implemented. But I restore the deputies' freedom: Let them return here, they will be free.

LE FIGARO: But you were expected to make a gesture of goodwill...

Michel 'Awn: I have made it, I accept the reforms.

A duty officer entered the office: "General, the crowd awaits you, there are 100,000 of them!" The general stood up and said to me: "You see, they support me; I have no choice..." And he went out.

'Awn Participates in Phone-In

LD2610230589

[Editorial Report] Paris Domestic Service in French at 1815 GMT on 26 October, carries a 45-minute live phone-in program from Beirut with General Michel 'Awn. The program is interrupted throughout by breaks on the phone line. Alain Bedouet and Ralph Pinto are in the Paris studio, while Alain Menargues reports from Beirut.

The program begins with Alain Menargues introducing the al-Ta'if agreement. Then Bedouet asks: "General 'Awn, why do you find this agreement bad and dangerous? In any case why are you much more than reticent, even skeptical? Why did you condemn it?"

'Awn replies: "Well, I did not condemn all the agreement. First it is not an agreement, it is a draft agreement. In some ways it is a diktat, because it was drawn up at the time with the tripartite committee, which was rejected in a battle between the Lebanese forces which caused hundreds of deaths.

"However in its first section on reforms, it is acceptable, since it ends the so-called Lebanese-Lebanese war. But in its second section it endorses the Syrian presence, but does not end this presence in Lebanon. There are many flaws in the text, and through these loopholes the Syrian presence can be extended in Lebanon indefinitely. This is what we fear, as we have had bad experience with Syria already."

Bedouet asks: "If you consider that it is a dangerous draft agreement—you used the word diktat—how do you explain that practically all the Christian components, who, a priori, are on your side, still endorsed this draft agreement?"

'Awn replies: "You know that the legislature is not responsible for agreements between two countries. This is the responsibilty of the executive power. This is an abuse of power by the legislature, and second those endorsing it are not in power. It is my prerogative to accept it or not, and with this prerogative, I say no to the second section of this draft agreement."

The phone-in continues with a listener asking whether she can safely return home to Lebanon. The program then discusses what the Lebanese deputies will do when they return to Lebanon, and the constitutionality of possible elections.

'Awn explains to a listener how he sees himself as constitutionally the Lebanese prime minister. 'Awn replies to another listener that he did not start the latest phase of the war in Lebanon, his war of liberation was in response to Syrian moves. There is then a break on the telephone line. When the call is reestablished 'Awn invites the Lebanese deputies back to Lebanon to discuss elections. Elections cannot be held outside the country.

After another break on the phone line 'Awn recalls how he has asked for aid from all countries for his war of liberation.

Ibrahimi Arrives in Beirut

NC2610180289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Arab activity continues on two fronts. While a number of deputies are continuing their consultations in Jeddah, Arab tripartite committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi arrived at the Summerland Hotel in Beirut this evening. He will consult with Lebanese officials in order to determine the location of a security zone within which the Chamber of Deputies will hold a session to elect parliamentary officials, a speaker, and a president of the Republic, and ratify the national accord document.

In this connection, Husayn al-Husayni told the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY today that the session at which a speaker and a president will be elected and the new covenant will be ratified will be held in Lebanon and, specifically, at Mansur Palace in Beirut. He added that Ibrahimi and influential figures are holding consultations on this matter.

Begins 'Consultations'

NC2710120189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi has begun a series of consultations with officials and leaders in the eastern area on ways to hold the elections according to the al-Ta'if agreement. Within this framework, Ibrahimi met successively with General 'Awn, Patriarch Sfayr, and National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un. [passage omitted]

Following his meeting with Patriarch Sfayr, Ibrahimi said that he is confident that his beatitude will, as usual, be a focus of unity for all Lebanese groups and leaders.

Gen 'Awn will hold a news conference at 1500 today in which he will talk about the recent developments.

Iddih 'To Participate' in Elections

NC2510075189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0625 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Raymond Iddih has announced that he will participate in the presidential elections if they are held in Lebanon next month. He said that he will campaign from Paris.

Iddih said that the deputies in al-Ta'if are not constitutionally authorized to decide on any political reforms, adding that anything that is decided in al-Ta'if will not be legal unless parliament amends the Constitution, which cannot be done until a president is elected in Lebanon.

Ibrahimi Meets With 'Awn, Comments

NC2710090689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Excerpts] After meeting with General Michel 'Awn for an hour this morning, Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi said that he discussed the nature of his mission in Lebanon in light of the al-Ta'if meetings.

[Begin Ibrahimi recording] I was honored today to meet with the general. I talked to him about my mission in Lebanon this time in light of the conclusion of the al-Ta'if meetings and the statement issued by the tripartite committee in Jeddah 2 days ago. As usual, we are holding extensive consultations with all the brothers. We are constantly working for Lebanon. Naturally, all the brothers have ideas and views which we are discussing. Eventually, God willing, we will achieve the results which will serve Lebanon and ensure its future. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Lakhdar Ibrahimi then left B'abda Palace for Bkirki to meet with His Beatitude Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr.

'Awn on Patriarch's Acceptance

NC2710093989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] After declaring his opposition to the holding of elections outside Lebanon, General Michel 'Awn threatened to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies. He said that the dissolution of parliament is an option because he has this right under the Constituion.

Responding to a question about Patriarch Sfayr's acceptance of the al-Ta'if agreement, Gen 'Awn said: The patriarch is the head of the Maronite Church but the demonstrations have shown where the Maronites stand.

Leaflets Denounce 'Awn Position

JN2610164289 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1504 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Beirut, 26 Oct (SANA)—Confirmed information has asserted that leaflets supporting the al-Ta'if agreement were distributed at various areas in East Beirut this morning.

The leaflets are signed by the Lebanese Army Free Officers and denounce General 'Awn's stands rejecting peace.

Reliable information asserts that 'Awn's organs, which tried to collect these leaflets, have begun investigations among the Army units to determine the identity of these who signed the leaflets.

This took place amid intensive and mutual state of alert among the ranks of 'Awn's supporters on the one hand and his opponents on the other.

'Awn Forces Arrest 6 Over Leaflets

NC2710072689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] AFP has confirmed that leaflets criticizing General Michel 'Awn were distributed in the eastern area yesterday. It said that 'Awn's forces arrested six persons and charged them with distributing these leaflets, which were issued by the Grouping of Lebanese Christian Officers [Tajammu' al-Dubbat al-Masihiyin al-Lubnaniyin]. In the leaflets, the grouping said: Gen 'Awn's policy is suicidal. This policy must be stopped. It added: We can no longer subject our areas to danger because 'Awn's policy is irresponsible and adventurous.

The leaflets described Gen 'Awn as power hungry. AFP noted that the citizens in the eastern area found the leaflets stuck on their car windows and that 'Awn's forces immediately began patrolling the areas where the leaflets had been distributed and carried out extensive raids.

Meanwhile, 'Awn is beginning to back down. He has declared that his rejection of the al-Ta'if agreement is political and not governed by the gun. In an interview with France-Inter Radio in Paris last night, 'Awn said: I do not want to revert to the language of the gun as the current stage is a diplomatic one. 'Awn also said that he rejected holding the elections outside Lebanon.

'Awn Says Deputies 'Must Return'

NC2710130989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] A demonstration marched to the presidential palace in B'abda today in support of General 'Awn. Gen 'Awn addressed the demonstrators, urging the deputies to return to Lebanon for discussions:

[Begin 'Awn recording] The deputies must return. They have full freedom to use the information media, hold rallies, and address you and try to convince you. If you are convinced, I myself will tell you to support the agreement they have reached. [applause]

If, however, they fail to convince you, they must backtrack and halt the al-Ta'if process. This is the last message I address to them, because after this, everything will pass the point of no return. I hope they remember this. I am telling them this today, so that will not cross the line. They alone will bear the responsibility, because this involves the election of a president whose political leanings and ties are unknown. The presidential candidate himself must come here. Nomination and elections should take place and a president must amend this agreement before it is implemented, because he cannot be committed to anything before he is elected. This runs counter to our norms, laws, Constitution, and legislature. If they want to behave in this random way, the government has powers that it can use. [end recording]

Jihad Threatens To Kill Deputies

NC2710094389 Paris AFP in English 0929 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, Oct 27 (AFP)—A telephone caller claiming to represent the underground Islamic Jihad organisation threatened Friday to kill Lebanese deputies for accepting an Arab peace plan.

The unidentified caller also told a Western news agency here that Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi, currently in Beirut, should not promote what he said was a U.S. initiative "to eliminate the Islamic presence in Lebanon."

"The U.S. attempt to impose Maronite (Christian) hegemony over the Moslem majority of the Lebanese people will not pass unpunished and members of parliament will pay with their lives," the caller said. [passage omitted]

Franjiyah Invites Deputies to Ihdin

NC2510175689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Former President Sulayman Franjiyah has telephoned Deputy 'Abdallah al-Rasi and told him that he is ready to receive the East Beirut deputies at al-Qulay'at Airport, invite them to stay in Ihdin, and provide them with the appropriate climate to carry out their parliamentary responsibilities. This invitation, Franjiyah said, is open to other officials as well. Franjiyah asked Al-Rasi to relay this information to the Arab tripartite committee and Saudi officials.

Al-Huss Assesses Agreement

NC2710133789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has stated: If we exclude General 'Awn, we can say that there is a Lebanese consensus on the al-Ta'if agreement. Everybody supports it in general, but all have reservations about parts of it.

Responding to a question from MENA, Prime Minister al-Huss added: Almost all Lebanese support the al-Ta'if agreement on the basis that nothing better could possibly have been achieved and also on the grounds that it constitutes a way to rescue Lebanon from its present situation. Almost all Lebanese have comments or reservations about one clause or another in the agreement, ourselves included. General approval of the agreement does not necessarily mean approval of each point in it. This is the nature of any referendum that takes place in any civilized, democratic society. When a document, be it a draft law, an agreement, or a new constitution, is put before the public in a referendum, the people vote on its overall contents and not on each separate clause. The positions that have been announced have been tantamount to a referendum in favor of the al-Ta'if agreement as a whole, despite reservations over some parts.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: The important thing is that this agreement should be taken as a whole as a way to salvation so that it may be approved and implemented lock, stock, and barrel. The rules of democracy would then take over.

Prime Minister al-Huss said: There is nothing to prevent anyone from implementing the agreement and then demanding that a clause be changed, amended, or developed as this is the legitimate right of every citizen in any democratic system, provided that this is done by political and peaceful means and through the constitutional institutions.

Prime Minister al-Huss noted: We have never viewed reform as a mere deal to be concluded or a page to be turned, but as a continuing democratic and open experiment.

Prime Minister al-Huss concluded by saying: We have said yes to the al-Ta'if agreement and we say yes today to the expeditious implementation of the agreement as a whole. The train of peace has started moving and we do not believe that anybody can stand in its way.

Birri, Junblatt Depart for Syria

NC2610161289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt left Beirut for the Syrian capital this afternoon. While in Damascus, Birri and Junblatt will hold talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam on the recent developments in Lebanon in light of the al-Ta'if agreement.

Soviet Ambassador 'Optimistic'

NC2610182889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha has said he believes that the al-Ta'if agreement is an important step toward a solution and agreement on national reconciliation. After meeting with former Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, he asserted that his government has always sought to contribute to the peace process in Lebanon, noting that this is done through his meetings with various Lebanese parties and the members of the Arab committee.

Kolotusha is optimistic regarding the Lebanese situation. He pointed out that there are obstacles on the path to a solution. He added: Nevertheless, we believe that, through the activity of the tripartite committee and the Lebanese people's desire for peace, Lebanon will achieve a favorable outcome. He noted that whenever the tripartite committee declared its desire to implement certain steps this was always carried out at the specified time. He said that therefore it will be possible to hold a presidential election on the set date.

Iranian Official on Withdrawal

NC2610181489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] In Paris, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Va'ezi [name and title as heard] has hinted that Iran will withdraw its fighters currently in Lebanon once a lawful government is formed in that country, as he put it. He answered a question by saying that once such a government is formed, all foreign forces should withdraw from Lebanon.

The Iranian official described the al-Ta'if agreement as less than satisfactory, but added that Iran is satisfied with the current efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

Sha'ban, Iran's Mohtashemi Comment

NC2610141889 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 25 Oct 89 p 3

[Excerpts] Tripoli (AL-SAFIR)—Former Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi visited Tripoli yesterday at the head of a delegation comprising Hamidreza Qomi, Hamed 'Azizi, and Mostafa Wandadeh [name as published] and met with Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement.

Following the 2-hour meeting, Mohtashemi said: I came to Lebanon more than 2 weeks ago and visited many brothers in the Islamic resistance in the south, western al-Biqa', and Beirut and on the contact lines. [passage omitted]

Mohtashemi added: There is a plot afoot in Lebanon today by world arrogance which is spearheaded by the Maronites against the Muslims and Islam. They met in al-Ta'if and adopted decisions which I think are not good for Muslims or Islam. This plot is not only against Lebanon, but also against the Muslims. America and Israel stand behind this plot.

Asked how this plot can be confronted, Mohtashemi said: We discussed this matter with the Islamic leaders in Lebanon. We will support and defend any Islamic stand you will adopt.

In a statement, Shaykh Sha'ban said: The Muslims of the world—Arabs and non-Arabs—must unite in the face of the plot being hatched against their countries from East Asia to West Africa. The Iranian brothers regard Lebanon as part of the Islamic world, and perhaps the most important part today, as it is rebelling against world arrogance and infidelity.

He added: Mohtashemi's visit comes within this framework. He was in constant touch with the Lebanese when he was ambassador in Damascus, and has been a strong supporter of the Islamic movements and the Islamic resistance against the Jews. We are pleased with his visit, particularly as it comes at a difficult time in the Lebanese issue. Some are trying to find American-Zionist solutions to this issue through the al-Ta'if conference.

Sha'ban added: The al-Ta'if conference was held to hatch a plot. The sects are meeting so they can perpetuate sectarianism in Lebanon and keep Maronism at the top of the pyramid. We think that the plot, which has continued for over 14 years, must not end with a plot by the Arabs in favor of the Americans to end the Lebanese people's struggle, which has been continuing for more than 15 years, and the Palestinian people's struggle, which began 41 years ago.

He added: We reject everthing that was discussed in al-Ta'if because the conference was convened by the United States, which used al-Ta'if as a cover. We say to the conferees there that they represent no one but themselves. They do not represent their communities. We regard them as a worn-out parliament, half of whose members have died. We say to former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, who cast the first ballot in the election of al-Jumayyil, to stop these games. They say that the al-Ta'if conference was held to succeed. We say it was held to fail, and we will foil it, God willing. We say to the Syrian brothers that they must be alert to the dangerous plot. They must not be indifferent to the approval of the al-Ta'if decisions, because this is a plot against Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, the Arabs, and the Muslims and is designed to perpetuate Zionism and Maronism and American hegemony in the entire area. We also say to Syria that it must realize it has allies and must not make decisions without consulting them. They were honest with you at the Damascus and Tehran meetings. If you ignore your allies today, the plot against you will become easier to implement. We ask you to take a serious stand against the plot. [passage omitted]

Parliamentary Committee Meets Patriarch Sfayr

Embarks on 'Urgent Mission'

NC2510101789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Telephone dispatch by George Shahin from Jeddah—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In an effort to achieve unanimity, the members of the Bkirki parliamentary committee left for the Vatican at 0900 Jeddah time, 0800 Beirut time, today to meet with Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr on an urgent mission. The parliamentary delegation comprises Deputies George Sa'adah, Khatchik Babikian, Rene Mu'awwad, Nasri al-Ma'luf, Michel Sasin, and Butrus Harb. The delegation will return to Jeddah this afternoon to discuss the developments with the members of expanded parliamentary meeting. We have learned that the delegation will discuss the new stands with Patriarch Sfayr, who had blessed the accord as soon as it was announced.

In another development, it has been learned that two parliamentary delegations will leave for Algeria and Morocco in the next few hours to meet with President Bendjedid and King Hassan II to thank them for the

efforts they and Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz have made to solve the Lebanese issue and or at least put it on the road to security, peace, stability, and the reconstruction of Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Arab Committee's activities and continued sponsorship of the accord, the committee's permanent envoy, Lakhdar Ibrahimi, is expected to visit the area, arriving in the Syrian capital today and then going on to Beirut within the framework of the new task entrusted to him by the Arab committee. [passage omitted]

Sa'adah Meets Sfayr; Returns

NC2510200489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The Bkirki parliamentary committee delegation left Rome tonight for Jeddah, having met with Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr. Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah expressed satisfaction with his talks with Patriarch Sfayr and asserted that the approval of the accord plan was conditionial regarding certain demands and guarantees. King Fahd's speech, Sa'adah said, and the Arab tripartite committee's statement have satisfied these demands and made us more confident about the future.

Sa'adah added: There were four conditions to our approval of the accord document. Chief among these was that Lakhdar Ibrahimi would notify General Michel 'Awn of the contents of the document before it was made public and invite him to the final session in Jeddah. Another condition was that Patriarch Sfayr should be informed of the provisions of the document and give his consent and blessing. We have made the necessary consultations with Beirut and other parties outside Lebanon and were reassured of the positive stand of Beirut's parties and the Lebanese front, Sa'adah said.

Committee, Sfayr Reach Agreement

NC2610111289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] According to press reports, a five-point agreement was reached during the meeting between Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr and the Bkirki six-member parliamentary committee in Rome yesterday. The five points stipulate that Patriarch Sfayr return to Beirut today; that Patriarch Sfayr meet with General 'Awn and play a vital role in persuading Gen 'Awn to alter his stand; that the Christian deputies return to Beirut; that an expanded meeting be held in Bkirki to be attended by Patriarch Sfayr, the deputies, the Lebanese Front, and 'Awn or his representative; and that the deputies visit B'abda in an attempt to reach agreement with Gen 'Awn on the presidential elections and find a solution to the crisis.

Patriarch Returns to Lebanon

NC2610152889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Bkirki is making preparations to receive Patriarch Sfayr, who arrived at Beirut Airport at 1500 today. He was received by Bishops Abu-Jawdah, Al-Ra'i, and Hilu. A number of notables went to the patriarch's seat in Bkirki in order to receive his beatitude when he arrives there. Brigadier General George Harruq was present as the representative of General 'Awn.

Safyr Comments on Sovereignty

NC2610164089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr stated after arriving at the patriarchal seat that the important thing is to maintain unity of views and ranks. He said: This is what we said before the results [of the al-Ta'if meetings] were announced and before any stands were adopted on them. We repeat it more urgently today. We believe—indeed, we are certain—that there is no room now to trade accusations and we do not want to imagine, even for a minute, that among the Lebanese leaders there could be any who are more or less concerned with independence, sovereignty, and national dignity than others. He added: Lebanon belongs to all its sons and its heart has room for them all. All are equally dear and dignified.

Sfayr noted that those who accepted what was done realized that there was an international will that prevented them from leaping beyond the limits that had been drawn up. Consequently, they did not take a leap into the dark. Those who were opposed to the agreement desired radical solutions and an effective sovereignty that was not reduced in any way. He pointed out that this, in light of apparent international attitudes, was not possible in the current circumstances. He stated that before sovereignty is established, in reality it will continue to exist in the will of the citizens and in the fact that the appropriate opportunities will be seized to revive it in actual fact.

Sfayr added: We cannot forget that we are living in the midst of a storm. We cannot aspire to complete calm while the volcano erupts all around us. He went on: It is a grave error to believe that we are living on an island and can arrange our affairs as we wish. [passage omitted]

Phalangist Endorses Sfayr's Views

NC2610185689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Several political and popular delegations visited Bkirki [seat of the Maronite patriarchate] today. Among these were a delegation from the National Liberal Party led by Eng Dany Sham'un and a delegation from the Phalangist Party led by lawyer Munir al-Haj, the party's

deputy leader, and including Salah Matar, Khalil Nadir, George Sarkis, Emil Farah, and John Abu-Rashd.

Following the visit, Al-Haj said: We visited his beatitude to welcome him and receive his blessing. We are also underlining our support for the patriarch not only as a spiritual leader but as a source of political decisionmaking. Patriarch Sfayr's opinion can be endorsed as a guideline for action in this difficult phase. We subscribe to his views to the letter, act upon them, and call on his beatitude to lead the way in this phase until the desired salvation is attained.

Sham'un Satisfied With Arab Committee Statement

NC2410174689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1651 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Dany Sham'un, leader of the National Liberal Party [NLP], has received a telephone call from Jeddah, in which he was informed of the text of the final statement issued in Jeddah this evening. Sham'un expressed his satisfaction with the guarantees and reassurances of sovereignty, independence, and the withdrawal of the Syrian troops which were included in the statement.

Sham'un has invited the NLP higher council to an extraordinary meeting to be held at 0930 tomorrow to discuss the statement in light of recent developments and take the necessary stand.

National Liberals Assess Efforts

NC2510184889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The National Liberal Party has expressed its appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Arab higher tripartite committee toward restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and unity. This appreciation is due despite the fact that the outcome of the distinguished committee's work has fallen short of expectations, a statement by the party's higher council said.

The party expressed its appreciation for the guarantees announced in Jeddah, but urged the Arab leaders to work on strengthening the guarantees for sovereignty and consolidate these guarantees with practical measures that ensure their proper implementation. This, the statement said, can be accomplished by modifying the written text before it turns into law and ensuring the establishment of full sovereignty before the election of the president of the Republic, for the president should not be bound beforehand to commitments that are already subject to reservations.

The statement pledged continued support for the preservation of lawful constitutional practices and the state's institutions and unity.

Ja'ja' Cited on Need To Maintain Unity

NC2710150089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] In an interview to be published on 28 October, the magazine AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI quotes Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' as saying that an internal clash must be averted at any price because such a clash would strike at the current unity and consequently fulfill Syria's aims. This is the first principle upheld by the Lebanese Forces, Dr Ja'ja' asserted.

The second principle, he said, is that no agreement can be treated as if it is sacrosanct, particularly if such an agreement takes place among the Lebanese and its implementation requires several years. Therefore, it is possible to accept the positive points in such an agreement and reject the negative ones.

The third principle, Ja'ja' stated, is the need to maintain the current balance between the free areas and the occupied areas. Any disorder in this respect will not only lead to the downfall of the free areas but also to the elimination of the free Christian presence in the Middle East as a whole, he said.

Dr Ja'ja' said that politics is the art of dealing with reality in order to change it. Therefore, we must deal intelligently with this difficult stage, given that the Syrian president has used all his political cunning to corner us and put us before difficult choices, he declared. He added that we must be more intelligent and more cunning and must have a deeper and more penetrating realistic and strategic view in order to get out of this corner. The future lies in the people's will and history does not stop for one moment, he said.

Hizballah Wants Release of Red Cross Workers

NC2610160689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Hizballah issued a statement in al-Biqa' today calling on the kidnappers of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] employees in Lebanon to release them. The two Swiss employees were kidnapped in Sidon on 6 October.

Meanwhile, the ICRC in Lebanon issued a statement calling for the release of the kidnapped persons and announced that a sit-in will be staged at Red Cross offices in southern Lebanon tomorrow to protest the continued detention of the two employees.

Syrian Defense Minister Arrives in Beirut

NC2510210489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Our radio has learned that Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas arrived in West Beirut tonight. He is expected to hold consultations with the Syrian officials there and some of the military commanders in the

pro-Syrian groups. Talas is also expected to hold consultations with Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib and his command.

UNIFIL on Israeli 'Refusal' To Withdraw

NC2510072489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The commander of the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] has declared that the UN forces will not be able to carry out their mission in full because of Israel's refusal to withdraw to the internationally recognized border between Lebanon and Israel. This came in an address the UNIFIL commander made at the Norwegian contingent's headquarters in Tibnit yesterday on the occasion of the 44th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

Hizballah Commemorates Marine Hq Bombing

NC2510165589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] On the 6th anniversary of the two heroic operations carried out by the strugglers of Islam against the positions of the U.S. Marines and the French paratroopers in Beirut, Hizballah issued a statement explaining the objectives of the operations and the state that prevailed in the nation before the act of martyrdom, which restored Muslims' pride and dignity.

The statement stressed that the purpose of the U.S.-Nato-Zionist invasion of Lebanon 6 years ago was to introduce radical change in the substance and form of the culture of this influential part of the Islamic world, with a view to reconstructing the political relations of the existing regimes on the basis of recognition of and coexistence with the usurping entity [Israel].

The statement added: On the morning of 23 October 1983, two martyr mujahidin set out to inflict upon the U.S. Administration an utter defeat not experienced since Vietnam, and a similar one upon the French Administration. The two operations served as the single most powerful action in an era of sheer defeat and weakness and heralded once again a new dawn of freedom and dignity.

The statement pointed out that the martyrdom operations underlined that the Islamic nation cannot accept the positions of humiliation and submission to the exigencies of the power game, regardless of the magnitude of pressure, and thus ended arrogant foreign interference. It is no longer possible for any hostile Western power to threaten military intervention in order to change a political position, because these operations showed that the direct presence of the arrogance draws immense catastrophic consequences in the valley of tears, Lebanon.

The statement concluded by saying that the change of tactics by the powers of arrogance and their reliance on proxies at home instead of direct intervention to achieve their goals will not change the pure nature of the blood that the martyrs pumped in the veins of their people and their nation, making them prefer pride of martyrdom to the humiliation of acquiescence. This noble blood will serve as an incentive to reject the positions of humiliation, regardless of the pressures and the sacrifices.

'Intensive' Israeli Activities in South Noted

NC2710081689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces were active on land, at sea, and in the air yesterday. Israeli gunboats and submarines were unusually active along the southern coast while Israeli military helicopters launched raids on the Tyre-al-Bayyadah coast. Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes staged mock raids over areas east of Sidon and in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

There were also intensive enemy mechanized movements on the hills along the confrontation lines from al-Bayyadah in the west to Jabal al-Rayhan in the east through al-Nabatiyah hills.

Occupation forces have stormed and searched the towns of Dayr Siryan, Rshaf, Shab'a, al-Habbariyah, and Kafr Shuba and arrested 14 persons, taking 7 of them to the al-Khiyam prison and the others to the compulsory recruitment camp in al-Majidiyah. These villages have been under siege for over a week now and enemy forces are preventing people from entering or leaving these villages.

Security sources have reported that Israeli forces have recently been constructing roads and reinforcing, expanding, and building observation towers in the Radar area on al-Bayyadah hill.

The town of 'Arab Salim in Iqlim al-Tuffah has come under 120-mm artillery shelling from the occupation forces' position in al-'Ayshiyah. There have also been intensive military movements on the al-Rayhan-al-Jarmaq-Sujud line.

Israeli Troops, SLA Clash

NC2710132889 Paris AFP in English 1219 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Oct 27 (AFP)—Israeli troops clashed overnight Thursday with their allies in the South Lebanon Army [SLA] Israeli-imposed "security zone", seriously wounding one SLA militiaman, security sources said Friday.

The clash was the first of its kind reported by regional security sources since Israel created a "security zone" inside southern Lebanon after a partial invasion of the region in 1978.

Israeli troops and units of the Israeli-trained and financed SLA now control an 850-square-kilometer (340 square mile) "security zone" along the Lebanon-Israel border.

The overnight clash reportedly broke out when Israeli soldiers in the Bayyadah post in the western sector of the zone opened fire on a SLA position some 200 meters (yards) away.

The SLA militia returned the fire and one of their fighters was seriously wounded in the exchange, the security sources said. The injured man was taken to a hospital in Israel for treatment.

On Tuesday, Israel expelled from the zone 21 Lebanese, most of them children, who were related to three SLA militiamen alleged to have defected.

'Awn's Forces Fire at 'Aytat Road in Mountain

NC2710104989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] The 'Aytat road in the mountain came under intensive heavy-caliber automatic weapons fire from positions held by 'Awn's army in Suq al-Gharb at 1130 today.

Meanwhile, according to reports from the eastern area, bursts of machinegun fire were heard in the B'abda area at 1000 today.

Further on Mountain Clashes

NC2710143089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] The al-Yarzah army cliques have stepped up thier aggressions in violation of the cease-fire. At 1530, these cliques used mortars and heavy-caliber machineguns to pound the Ra's al-Jabal area from their positions in Suq al-Gharb. The same area was the target of artillery bombardment at 1445. The area of Kayfun came under intermittent heavy-caliber machinegun and sniper fire from 1445 until 1550. The 'Aytat road also came under heavy-caliber machinegun fire from the opposing positions of the al-Yarzah army clique this morning.

Lebanon's Franjiyah Arrives in Damascus 26 Oct

JN2610121889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah and his grandson Sulayman Tony Franjiyah arrived in Damascus at noon today on a visit to Syria.

Franjiyah was welcomed at Damascus' northern entrance by Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs. After reviewing the honor guard, President Franjiyah left in an official motorcade to Al-Rawdah Palace where he will be residing.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent upon arrival, Franjiyah said that the purpose of his visit to Damascus is to hold talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on the state of affairs in Lebanon.

Further on Meeting

JN2610201989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1345 today the former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah, accompanied by his grandson Sulayman Tony Franjiyah. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' joined the meeting later. During the meeting, the talk revolved around the Lebanese situation, the Lebanese national accord document approved in the Lebanese deputies' meetings in al-Ta'if, and the possibilities and means of implementing this document.

President Franjiyah, his grandson, and al-Shar' had lunch with the president.

Shamir Response to U.S. Peace Proposals Viewed

PM2610154689 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 18 Oct 89 p 8

[Mustafa al-Faqir article: "Serious Pressure on Shamir, Not Palestinians"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department has urged the Palestinians to respond positively to Baker's proposals in order to boost the peace process.

The U.S. State Department has said that Shamir's criticisms of the proposals do not constitute a step backward, and Baker will continue his efforts to boost the negotiations.

We are not about to discuss Baker's proposals, though they meet the Palestinian Arab people's minimum demands. But we do want to ask about the benefit of the proposed negotiations, when Israel's prime minister rejects in advance any discussion of the Arab territories' occupation, which has continued since 1967.

A few days ago Shamir indirectly rejected Baker's plan. He refused to accept Cairo as a venue for negotiations. He refused to grant any political status to any talks with a Palestinian delegation. He said something to the following effect: Such talks must be held in Israel—that is, under the occupation—and that [word illegible] will send only technical representatives, if the talks are held, because they will have no political status; they will revolve around purely organizational matters.

The organizational matters that Shamir has in mind are: how to hold the elections, the number of ballot boxes in each town, and their distribution. In Shamir's view, the elections he is talking about in the West Bank and Gaza are formal and lack any political concept, thus require nothing more than procedural talks! And even though the talks would be procedural, Shamir insists on choosing the members of the negotiating Palestinian delegation himself. He also insists that it is he who must decide which Palestinians have the right to vote. He has already denied that right to the Arabs of occupied Jerusalem!

The fact is that Shamir's maneuvers are no longer any secret to anyone, especially the Americans. Their press has criticized and rapped Israel's prime minister and warned the U.S. Administration about his procrastination. Despite all this, Washington still fails to see Shamir's declared stances, which reject any settlement, as a step backward. In fact it continues to ask the Palestinians for new steps forward.

If the Arabs had to wait for Shamir to agree to serious negotiations enabling the United States to persuade the Israeli prime minister to refrain from procrastination, without putting any real pressure on him, then they would have to wait for a very, very long time. And whenever Israel displays its intransigence it will find itself being asked to make further concessions with a view to appeasing its prime minister!

It is very clear that the U.S. Administration's present policy aimed at dividing the Arab position, transcending international sponsorship represented by the United Nations, and focusing on isolated talks will produce no result but will, rather, worsen the situation. This is because Israel sees nothing in the Arab concessions except evidence of weakness, which is why it meets that weakness with further arrogance and intransigence. The world has unanimously agreed that an international peace conference is the only framework for fruitful negotiations, provided that a clear agenda is drawn up—an agenda that includes, first and foremost, the implementation of UN resolutions on Palestine and the occupied Arab territories. What we have so far witnessed conflicts with that unanimity and serves the interests of Israel, whose objective is to destroy any serious efforts to hold an effective international conference.

Afghanistan

Officials Hold News Conference on Narcotics

BK2610121789 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] A press conference was held yesterday in [word indistinct] palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the participation of local and foreign journalists in connection with the process and smuggling of narcotics which constitutes one of the aspects of the inhuman activities of the armed extremist opposition groups.

During this conference, the vast dimensions of the activities of the armed extremist groups in cultivating, producing, trading, processing, and smuggling of narcotics were explained with facts and figures. In this conference, which was attended by Hamidullah Tarzi, minister of finance; (Da'ud Khavi), deputy minister of foreign affairs; and representatives of the Ministry of State Security, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Public Health, a short talk was made in connection with the holding of the conference and then representative of the Ministry of State Security furnished the audience with information about the areas cultivated with narcotics by the extremist groups in the territory of Afghanistan and the plantation of hashish and opium and the growers of these materials. He said that the production of these materials has been stepped up as a result of the activities of extremist groups.

Afterwards, president of the crime detection department of the Ministry of Interior provided detailed information about the campaign against narcotics and prevention of smuggling, trading, and addiction of narcotics and other preventive measures adopted by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan. He also shed light on the escalation and intensification of punishment made on the perpetrators of such crimes.

Then vice president of Kabul customs department shed light on the precautionary measures taken by the Kabul customs for the prevention of dispatch of narcotics and the practical action of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan against smuggling of narcotics. Afterwards, the deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan talked about world common campaign against narcotics and prevention of the cultivation and reduction of narcotics. He also explained the practical action of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan at national and international levels for the escalation of the struggle and campaign against narcotics. Then a number of local and foreign journalists raised their questions which were answered by the authorities concerned.

In this conference light was thrown on the extremist groups and their heads who are engaged in production and smuggle of narcotics in different parts of the country. It was pointed out that the great part of cultivation, production, process, and smuggle of narcotics was done by Golbuddin [Hekmatyar] group. [Words indistinct] narcotics comprising of more than 715 kg of heroin, more than 1,896 kg of raw and ripe hashish, more than 28,900 tablets of mandrakes and other narcotics, at a total cost of 1.5 billion afghanis which were captured and seized from the narcotics smugglers connected with the extremist groups were burnt and destroyed.

Protest Lodged With Pakistan on Border Violation

BK2710095189 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul was summoned yesterday, October 25th [as heard], to Foreign Ministry where the following was conveyed to him by the acting director of the First Political Division:

According to reports of the security sources of the country, a group of United States, Saudi Arabian, and Pakistani advisers were air-lifted by two Pakistani helicopters into the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan aimed at instructing and helping the commanders of so-called group of seven [mujahidin] alliance stationed in Pakistan. The reports say that at 0910 October 22d, two helicopters transported the advisers to Asadabad city, center of Konarha Province, and after fulfilling the operation returned back at 1103. Also, at 1656 October 22d, two Pakistani jet planes made reconnaissance flights over the border areas with a speed of 600 km per hour at an attitude of 7,000 meters.

The security sources also reported that during a period of over 1 month since September 23d to October 25th, the Pakistani-backed armed extremists fired as many as 258 rockets on the centers of cities and residential quarters, as a result of which 122 countrymen were killed and 327 injured and [words indistinct] and 23 residential houses destroyed.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan while [it] seriously condemns the state terrorism policy and the violation of the Geneva agreements by the Government of Pakistan, lodges strong protest with the Pakistani authorities, noting that responsibility of the grave consequences of such irresponsible deeds would be exclusively Pakistan's.

Security Forces Seize Explosives, Sacker Missiles

LD2610124189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 25, BAKHTAR—The security forces of the country discovered 3 kg explosives and 18 anti-personnel mines yesterday in Kabul city. The explosives as well as mines were placed close to a consumer goods cooperative in Kabul city by US-Pak backed extremists for killing our innocent compatriots.

During clearing operations launched today by the organs of the Ministry of State Security in Bagrami District, Kabul Province, three ground-to-ground US made Sacker-30 rockets were seized.

Muhajidin Besiege Ghazni With Help of Defectors

LD2610192689 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] London, Oct. 26. IRNA—Afghan mujahidin have reportedly besieged the historic city of Ghazni and in this effort over 300 defecting Afghan soldiers are cooperating with them, according to AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS (AAP), monitored in London Thursday.

AAP claimed, the defecting troops brought with them large quantity of arms and ammunition including 3 tanks and 11 armoured vehicles from the Maqar garrison located in the Kabul-Qandahar highway 102 km south of Ghazni.

The siege around Ghazni is nearing a month, during which the mujahidin have conducted several attacks on the airport and the cantonment causing heavy losses to the Marxist forces, the report added.

Deputy Prime Minister Discusses GDR Visit

LD2110201589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Deputy Prime Minister Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, who is head of a Republic of Afghanistan delegation went to the GDR to participate in the 40th anniversary of that country and to hold talks on economic issues with the leading state authorities of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia, returned home and said the following to a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY [BIA] correspondent in connection with his visits:

The Afghan deleagation, in addition to participating in the 40th anniversary of the GDR, and holding talks with the GDR state authorities, conducted useful talks with the GDR minister of foreign trade concerning the expansion of foreign trade ties between both countries. A cooperation protocol was signed between the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Afghanistan and the GDR. In accordance with this protocol, the GDR Chamber of Commerce and Industry will begin preparations to hand over export goods needed by our country to Afghan national businesses and trade establishments. The assessment showed that at present the possibility exists of importing sugar and vegetable oil from the GDR, and that our national businesses and trade establishments can import these two foodstuffs from the GDR after price evaluations. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Awards Medals to Officials, Troops

LD2510063889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct 24, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan "RA" and supreme commander of the Armed Forces awarded on October 22, medals and orders of the RA to a number of leading members of the Defence Ministry as well as those contingents and detachments of the Armed Forces stationed in Herat and Qandahar Provinces, which took active part in a big food supply convoys to Nimruz, Farah, Helmand and Qandahar Provinces, in recognition of their meritorious services.

A BAKHTAR military correspondent reported that President Najibullah, during a ceremony held on the occasion, installed "Red Banner" medals of the (RA) on the chests of Colonel General Shahnawaz Tanay, minister of defence, Colonel General Muhammad Asef Delawar general chief of staff and Lieutenant General 'Abdul Fatah, commander of air defence forces of the (RA).

The medals awarding ceremony was attended by Colonel General Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security and Colonel General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of interior affairs of the RA.

Najibullah Agrees to Conscription Law Amendment

LD2410210389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] The office of the Presidency of Afghanistan reports to us that esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has agreed to the amendments of Paragraph 1, Article 9, and Paragraph 2, Article 16 of the General Military Conscription Law in two articles which have been approved by the Republic of Afghanistan's Council of Ministers based on the authority contained in Decree No 1498, dated 18 February 1989, declaring the state of emergency.

Amendment to General Military Conscription Law:

Article I: Paragraph 1, Article 9 and Paragraph 2, Article 16 of the General Military Conscription Law will be amended as follows:
1. Paragraph 1, Article 9: Male citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan who are between the ages of 18 and 34 and who have not served in the military are called up for military service. Those citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan who are 35 and older and who have not served in the military will be exempted from military service and will be called up for military reserve service.
2. Paragraph 2, Article 16: Military service will be counted as part of employment, regardless of the term of their employment, in keeping with the General Military Conscription Law dated 23 February 1987.

Article II: This amendment will come into force after receiving assent and will be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

The Office of the Presidency reports that esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has agreed to the amendment of Article 12 of the Official Documents Tax Law in two articles, in line with Paragraph 3, Article 75 of the Republic of Afghanistan's Constitution. It has been approved by the Council of Ministers in line with

the authority delegated by Decree No 1498, dated 18 February 1989, declaring the state of emergency.

Politburo Reviews Public Relations, Construction

LD2110200189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] A session of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee Politburo was held on 19 October.

The Politburo assessed the issue of the worthy celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the PDPA and pointed out that the celebration should be a powerful impetus to consolidate party unity, expand and stengthen party ties with the people, and enhance its role in the process of ensuring nationwide peace, defense of national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence, and to resolve the social and economic problems of the country. The Politburo adopted necessary decisions in this regard.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo also assessed the preparations of party committees of Kabul University and Polytechnic [as heard] to hold elections for the scientific cadres there, as well as the results of these elections which took place in a completely democratic climate. The elections at Kabul University and Polytechnic were free, secret, and direct. The Politburo pointed out that the results of the elections prove the great credibility of the PDPA among the scientific cadres of Kabul University and Polytechnic and the strong ties of the party organizations of these establishments with the scientific cadres.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo approved a resolution to improve the political and organizational work of the PDPA in the higher educational organizations of the country. The Politburo also assessed the issue of receiving and dealing with the people's letters, petitions, and complaints, one of the main tasks in strengthening party ties with the people. The Politburo decided that the members and candidates of the Politburo and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee, party members in charge of important state posts, heads and deputies of PDPA Central Committee departments, and social organizations and party committees should pay proper attention to receive people and to help them resolve their problems in a fixed time period. The Politburo approved a procedure in this regard.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo discussed and studied ways to develop the construction work of the new Kabul-Bagram road, the construction of which began in April of the current year—an extremely important project at the present time, exclusive of the development plan. The Politburo stressed that all the primary party organizations of all relevant bodies should exert all-round efforts in this matter and should take over the control and assess the progress of construction work on the aforementioned road and its completion until 6 December. The Politburo issued instructions to the workers, engineers, and personnel of the departments involved in the construction of this road to fulfill their duties conscientiously and patriotically under very difficult conditions. It also said the workers should be highly commended when the Kabul-Bagram road is fully completed.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo also discussed a number of important internal, party, national, and international issues and adopted decisions in this regard.

Commentary on U.S. Meeting With Zahir Shah

NC2209092889 Beijing in Persian to Iran 1830 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Press commentary by Chen Wen Tai, Radio Beijing correspondent in Washington: "Why Did the U.S. Diplomatic Delegation in Rome Meet With the Former King of Afghanistan?"]

[Text] The meeting between the U.S. diplomatic delegation in Rome and Zahir Shah, the former king of Afghanistan, has attracted attention. U.S. contacts with the former king highlight a main element of U.S. policy on Afghanistan: The former king is a focus of U.S. attention.

This is in sharp contrast to U.S. policy before and immediately after the departure of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. The United States believed that as soon as the Soviet forces departed, the Kabul regime would collapse and the resistance forces would be strengthened militarily. Therefore, the United States gave the resistance forces considerable military assistance. However, because the internecine rivalries have not been resolved among the resistance forces, they have been unable to unify. This is why they have been unable to attain any outstanding political or military successes. As a result, U.S. public opinion in April and May held that U.S. policy on Afghanistan was moving toward a politcal rather than a military solution.

According to reports, in addition to contact with the former monarch, the United States maintains its ties with other Afghans so that regardless of who takes control of the Afghan Government in the future, the United States will be able to maintain its influence.

India

Gandhi Warns 'Communal Elements' on Violence

BK2610162589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] The prime minister has appealed to the people to maintain communal harmony and to work together. Mr Rajiv Gandhi made this appeal after visiting Bhagalpur in Bihar today. In a statement, the prime minister said the government is determined to firmly deal with those who are seeking to undermine communal harmony. He reiterated that the government will ensure the security

and well-being of all sections of the people and there will be no compromise or vacillation in dealing firmly with communal elements. Mr Gandhi said that the recent spate of communal violence in different parts of the country has caused great pain and anguish. The prime minister said the communal violence, which was sparked off yesterday in Bhagalpur, has led to tragic loss of lives. This violence has (?flown) from an atmosphere which is sought to be built up by certain elements who appear to be bent upon fanning religious passions and disrupting communal harmony.

Mr Gandhi said that he had met the Bihar chief minister and state officials in Patna after visiting Bhagalpur. It is clear that there is a deliberate design by some communal elements as well as those seeking to accommodate and appease them to disrupt communal harmony for narrow electoral considerations. He said such conduct is reprehensible.

The prime minister said a number of measures including deployment of additional security forces have been taken to ensure that normalcy is restored in Bhagalpur at the earliest. The Home Ministry has been directed to render necessary assistance to the state government, Mr Gandhi added.

Our correspondent reports that Mr Gandhi took the decision to visit Bhagalpur early this morning after he came to know about the communal violence last night. During his visit, which was for about 2 hours, Mr Gandhi talked to several local people. He asked them to remain calm and maintain communal harmony. He also advised them not to be carried away by rumors. Mr Gandhi visited the local hospital and inquired about the injured persons. Earlier in Patna, the prime minister had a brief discussion with senior state government officials and reviewed the law and order problem. He asked the union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, to remain in Patna to review the situation further.

Meanwhile, the situation in the curfew-bound Bhagalpur town in Bihar is reported to be peaceful. There were no reports of any fresh incidents since last night. Official sources said in Patna that troops staged a flag-march in the town today as the death toll in the violence went up to 20. The army, the Border Security Force, and CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawans [soldiers] are patrolling the disturbed areas.

More Troops Sent to Bahgalpur

BK2710100589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] The Bihar government has prepared an elaborate action plan to deal with the growing communal trouble in the state. The plan was drawn up in consultation with the Center.

Talking to newsmen in Patna today, the union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, said that after a threadbare assessment of the law and order situation in the state, twelve districts have been identified as sensitive. Replying to a question, the home minister said that the state government has been directed to ban such religious processions or activities which can spark off communal trouble. Referring to the violence in Bhagalpur, Mr Buta Singh admitted that there were some lapses on the part of the district administration, as proper and timely action was not taken to avoid violence.

Asked about banning of Vishwa Hindu Parishad [Hindu communal organization], the home minister said that it can be done only after getting support from the people. He said that the Bihar government will remain in close touch with the union Home Ministry, which is ready to render all necessary assistance to curb such violence.

Meanwhile, official sources in Patna say that the death toll in curfew-bound Bahgalpur town has risen to 48, including 18 killed yesterday. Over 200 persons have been arrested so far. Reports also said about a 100 persons have been injured and admitted to the local hospital. To contain violence, 10 more Army columns have been sent to Bhagalpur.

72 Dead in Hindu-Muslim Violence

BK2710083389 Hong Kong AFP in English 0818 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 27 (AFP)—Hindu-Moslem clashes have killed at least 45 people in the Ganges River town of Bhagalpur, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Friday [27 October], raising the week's death toll in eastern Bihar State to 72.

Officials told the news agency that 18 people died Thursday when Bhagalpur was rocked by one of the worst outbreaks of communal rioting seen in the town, despite a curfew imposed two days earlier. About 100 others were injured during the week in Bhagalpur, a major Bihar State town.

The latest casualties took the total reported killed across five districts of Bihar to 72 since Hindu-Moslem fighting erupted October 21. Eighteen have been reported slain in Sitamarhi, seven in Munger, and one each in Gaya and Darbhanga districts.

But PTI reported from Bihar that Home Minister Buta Singh declined Friday to give the an official figure for the number killed in the Hindu-Moslem clashes "in view of conflicting reports." But official sources told PTI that 45 people had died in Bhagalpur alone.

The rioting broke out in Bhagalpur Tuesday after a 3,000-strong mob tried to block a religious procession of another community, sparking off pitched street battles and police firing. An indefinite curfew was immediately clamped on the town, and Bhagalpur authorities called out the Army and paramilitary forces to assist police.

Mr. Buta Singh, a Sikh, said Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited Bhagalpur Thursday following reports that the town's law-and-order machinery had collapsed.

Bihar is administered by Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) party, which has been accused by the opposition of engineering the Hindu-Moslem riots with an eye on winning communal votes in next month's parliamentary elections.

Mr. Buta Singh Friday blamed the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council) and the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for the violence.

Nearly 400 people have died this year in Hindu-Moslem clashes across India.

Commentary on Slow Progress in Pakistan Ties

BK2610123789 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Commentary by Bhushan Marwah of THE HINDUSTAN TIMES]

[Text] When Ms Benazir Bhutto was catapulted into power about a year ago, marking the advent of democracy in Pakistan, hopes were legitimately raised in both the countries for a qualitative improvement in the India-Pakistan relations. It was felt that India's series of goodwill gestures and peace initiatives, which by and large left the military dictatorship of General Ziaul Haq untouched, would be adequately reciprocated by the new democratic regime. However, the great expectations in the India-Pakistan relations, triggered off by restoration of democracy in Pakistan on the one hand and taking over the reins of power by a protegee of the signatory of the Simla Agreement on the other, has not come off so far. This was so, not withstanding the fact that India had intensified its efforts to improve the bilateral ties.

The first meeting of Ms Bhutto with the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in December last on the occasion of the summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, did give an impetus to the development of bilateral relations. In the resultant atmosphere of goodwill and mutual confidence, it appeared that the 4 decades of suspicion and disbelief had been left far behind. To reinforce the positive turn in the India-Pakistan ties, subsequently, in February 1989 when Ms Bhutto visited China, Mr Rajiv Gandhi in a significant gesture telephoned her to convey his message of congratulations at the success of her first bilateral mission abroad. The definite upswing in the India-Pakistan relations, following the meeting of the two prime ministers on the occasion of the SAARC summit at Islamabad, was partly because of personal rapport struck between Ms Benazir Bhutto and Mr Rajiv Gandhi due to their being in the same age group and having parentage with similar political trials and tribulations.

On Indian side, after years of military rule in Pakistan and difficulties in normalization of relationship, the change of guards in Pakistan was greeted with unconcealed enthusiasm and glee, primarily because the feeling in this country has always been that it is easier to deal with an (?enlightened) political leadership in a democratic setup.

However, during the past few months there are enough straws in the winds that the hawks in Pakistan are again getting the upper hand and that country is back on its old rhetoric in painting India as a big bully, maintaining that India has not reconciled to the existence of Pakistan as a sovereign nation. Ms Bhutto herself returned to the favorite Pakistan theme of India-Pakistan parity in arms at the just concluded Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at Kuala Lumpur. Instead of mooting fresh ideas on her Indian policy, Ms Bhutto has harped back to talk on arms control and nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

The plea taken by the apologists of Ms Bhutto in both the countries is that she is unable to make a significant shift in her India policy due to compulsions at home. It is pointed out that things are not exactly rosy for the Pakistan prime minister. Her relationship with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is strained. The opposition in parliament thinks it can win a vote of no confidence. Two of that country's four provincial governments, Punjab and Baluchistan, are in revolt against her, and in Sind, her home province, there is demoralized party organization weakened by a resurgent nationalist movement.

Nevertheless, it must be underlined that the compulsion of the domestic situation has been a constraint to be boldly faced by the leadership in both the countries. In fact, anti-Indianism has been all along the main plank of the opposition politicians in Pakistan and Ms Bhutto could not be unaware of it while drafting her India policy. The plea of domestic compulsions should not become an alibi for reversing the process of normalization of relations between the two countries. Ms Bhutto's desire for improving relations with India has not been questioned in this country, but she should be sensitive enough to see the line that divides political exigencies from ill-intentioned acts. Apart from reaffirming the efficacy of the 1972 Simla Agreement to resolve all outstanding issues, stepping up of trade and cultural contacts could act as a major confidence-building measure leading to faster normalization of relations between the two countries.

Features of Narora Atomic Power Plant Detailed

BK2210123089 Delhi General Overseas Service English 1010 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Talk by M.K. Shukla of THE HINDUSTAN TIMES]

[Text] The first 235-megawatt electrical unit of the Narora Atomic Power Station in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh has been dedicated to the nation. The second 235-megawatt unit of the power station is likely to be commissioned by March 1990. The Narora plant is an important milestone in the country's nuclear program. It is the forerunner of a whole new generation of

nuclear power plants that will come into operation in the next decade. The reactor of the plant and its other crucial equipment like steam generator have been designed and built indigenously.

The Narora Atomic Power Station is situated on the banks of the Ganges in the Bulandshahr District of Uttar Pradesh. It is the fourth atomic power project to be commissioned in the country and second to be designed and built indigenously. The other three in commercial operation are two 160-megawatt units at Tarapur in Maharashtra, two 220-megawatt units at Kota in Rajasthan, and two 235-megawatt units at Kalpakkam in Madras. The Narora Atomic Power Station's first unit is the seventh atomic power unit of the country and possibly 430th of the world. When the second 235-megawatt unit of the plant is commissioned next year, the two units of the Narora Atomic Power Plant are expected to produce 435 megawatt units. The plant uses natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as moderator and coolant. It is the first pressurized heavy water heavy water reactor in the world that has been provided with double containment capable of withstanding full pressure likely to be experienced in the event of an accident.

The seismic design concept for Narora station takes into account two levels of earthquake. One is known as the operation basis, which is expected to occur during the life of the plant and that time the reactor is expected to remain operational. The second level gives a ground motion which is considered maximum at which all the safety systems are expected to be fully functional and the reactor shut down safely. All the equipment and systems, which are required to be operational under these two events, have been designed to ensure that the Narora station will be fully safe for the kind of earthquake that is likely to occur during the life of the plant.

There are a number of barriers in the Narora plant design besides the double containment to prevent radioactivity from reaching the environment. All the systems have been designed to give reliable performance and are tested regularly for their performance. Further, the liquid waste management system at the Narora plant has been designed in such a way that no radioactive affluence, treated or otherwise, will be discharged into the Ganges. The affluence discharged from the power station premises are also monitored to ensure that they comply with national and international standards. In addition, environmental surveillance programs are also operated, extending up to 30 km from the location of the power plant. Similar measures will be in operation in the Narora Atomic Plant.

The Narora Atomic Power Station, whose first unit gained criticality in March 1989, has become operational in 13 years and at an estimated cost of 532 crore rupees. The country is likely to establish about 10,000 megawatts of nuclear power capacity by the turn of the century. Several steps are being taken in this direction.

Completion of Soviet-Aided Nuclear Plant Moved Up

BK2310104989 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 14 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 13—India and the Soviet Union today agreed on advancing the completion of the Soviet-aided nuclear power station at Koodamkulam in Tamil Nadu by a year.

At the first meeting of the working group set up to implement the agreement between the two countries in November last year for the construction of two nuclear power reactors of 1000 MW [megawatts] each, it was decided that to complete the work before the scheduled date the Soviet Union would provide all the components for the nuclear power stations. The scheduled date of completion is 1998 for the first station and 1999 for the second. Koodamkulam is 25 km north-west of Kanyakumari on the east coast.

Atomic Energy Commission Chairman M. R. Srinivasan told the Press at the end of the meeting that the Indian side was satisfied with the safety features of the Soviet design. Soviet delegation leader V.V. Maryin added that the Soviet reactors were "reliable and safe and meet the safety requirements set by the International Atomic Energy Agency".

Mr Maryin is the first deputy chairman of the bureau of the USSR Council of Ministers for fuel and energy complexes. He led a delegation of 11 Soviet officials to the meeting while the Indian delegation was led by Dr Srinivasan.

The Soviet delegation chief denied that the safety system would be built by the French or the reactor would have major components designed by the German company Seimen. However, he said they would consider any component available anywhere with superior technological features.

The Soviet reactor will be pressurised light water reactor of the VVER [expansion unknown] type different from the Chernobyl one, which was RMBP [expansion unknown] type. (The Chernobyl reactor used graphite as moderator and light water as the coolant while the type that will be set up in Tamil Nadu will have light water as the moderator and coolant. There is thus no comparision between the two).

Dr Srinivasan said the cost of the project would be worked out by a specialist group. He reiterated the provision in the Indo-Soviet agreement on the project that the spent fuel rods would be returned to the Soviet Union and that that country had agreed to supply the fuel for the reactor.

However, Dr Srinivasan told a questioner that there was nothing in the agreement precluding India from buying fuel (enriched uranium) from elsewhere for the Soviet reactors. The fact was that even several Western countries were buying the fuel for their own reactors from the Soviet Union.

Asked about the Indian thinking on having its own light water reactors using enriched uranium, Dr Srinivasan said it would depend upon the cost comparison and the experience the Indian side would gain from the working of such reactors here. At present the two Tarapur reactors set up by the USA are the only power generating units using this technology; all the other Indian reactors are based on natural uranium as fuel.

Commentary on Satellite Launch Vehicle Booster

BK2510144989 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Narendra Gupta commentary: "Successful Firing of India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle Booster"]

[Text] The successful test last week of the first stage rocket booster for India's own Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV, marked another major milestone along the country's policy of developing indigenous capability in high technology areas. The rocket motor was 20 meters long, 2.8 meters in diameter, and contained a 128 tons of solid fuel as propellant. It has been announced that in the test conducted at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, the booster's performance met all design parameters and produced peak thrust of 450 tons. This rocket engine, the largest built in the country so far, is designated to be the first stage propulsion unit of a 4-stage launch system that will be (?married) to the satellite and be used to launch the 44-meter-long PSLV in late 1990 or in early 1991.

The success of Indian engineers in building solid fuel rockets is all the more creditable because most countries designed liquid propellant motors first. This becomes significant when considered with the fact that the development of rocket motor is based on a number of totally indigenous technologies pioneered in the Vikram Sarabhai Space Center and at the Shar center of ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] at Sriharikota involving important developments in the disciplines of solid propellant rocket technology.

The propellant has also been indigenously produced by Indian industry based on the ISRO know-how and technology transfer. The powerful first stage and three other stage motors are needed to provide the thrust in order to lift the satellite to a height of 700 to 1,000 km which is the altitude needed to inject the satellite into polar orbit. As can be visualized in a polar orbit, a satellite travels along the longitude over the earth in an elliptical orbit. A polar orbit satellite is essentially a remote sensing satellite, which, with the help of electronic and optical sensors, carries out various earth observations which are so essential for economic development. These include observations of water distribution, cropping pattern, including discoveries of any area being affected by pestilence, forest cover, geological and coastal surveys and mapping. It can be appreciated that such information can be most useful for long-term use as well as for early corrective action for agriculture, ecology, mining, and urban and rural planning.

The digital data transmitted by such earth resource satellite is received by various earth stations. In India, we have two such facilities: One is the National Remote Sensing Agency, NRSA, in Hyderabad, and the other is the Space Applications Center or SAC at Ahmadabad. The digital data received at these stations is processed by computers and these computers provide pictorially the information required of the geographical region on the earth's surface, which is desired to be surveyed. At present two stations, the NRSA and SAC, receive in India process [as heard] and provide the earth resource information to the central and state governments and to any other organization that may want it on a commercial basis.

India also receives data from the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite, IRS 1-A, which was launched for India on a Soviet rocket booster. India has the earth receiving station, the ability to build earth resource satellites, but not yet the ability to launch such payloads to the altitudes desired. At this stage, therefore, the success of the test of the first stage booster of the PSLV culminating in the satisfactory testing of all the propulsion modules of the PSLV becomes meaningful. Once the launch vehicle is test-launched successfully and productionized [as heard], India would have the capability of launching and using remote sensing satellites independently. After attaining the capability for launching polar orbit vehicle, the next logical step would be to endeavor to build our ability to launch geo-synchronous satellite to a height of 36,000 km in order to emplace it in its desired slot.

Remote sensing capability also can contribute considerably to maintaining peace in the region. Satellite surveillance capability will ensure that no adversary can take the country by surprise militarily as any large-scale movement would provide advance warning to the country. Also satellite capability confers a very dependable ability for verification in regard to deployment in terms of arms control agreements. With such availability of transparency of an adversary's action war becomes less likely.

All said and done, the success of the PSLV's first state booster is a step in the right direction. It brings us closer to our goals of developing high technology indigenously, reduces dependence on others in nationally vital fields and will ultimately lead to enhance economic development, increase regional cooperation, easing of security tension, and better prospects of ecological protection. This will give India an increased sense of national pride and achievement.

Iran

Larijani Assails U.S. 'Mischievous' Gulf Policy

LD2610203789 Tehran IRNA in English 1832 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—A former Iranian official rapped Washington for persuing a mischievous policy in the Persian Gulf region.

"Forging defensive-security commitments with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, keeping away Islamic Iran from the Persian Gulf Cooperative Council (P)GCC, and using Ba'thist Iraq as a pressure lever against the Islamic Republic, are the main features of the U.S. strategy," thought Mohammad Javad Larijani.

In his weekly column in the Persian daily ETTELA'AT, the former deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs said that the security of Kuwait or Saudi Arabia is not threatened by Iran, but "it is Ba'thist Iraq, as its record proves, which poses the main threat."

Moreover, by using Iraq as a pressure lever—as much as this provocation does not lead to another war—the U.S. thinks, Iran would be forced to withdraw from its leading position in the Muslim world, he added.

Larijani, who presently serves as adviser to the foreign minister, believes that this issues is "the core" of thoughts of U.S. policy-makers about Iran and the region, and their strategy "to moderate the Islamic revolution."

The fact is, the Persian Gulf region is exposed to two serious threats, he said, "one being Iraq's wish to become the regional gendarme, and the other, foreign powers' efforts to increase their politico-military influence in this wealthy part of the world."

For Ba'thist Iraq, the title of "regional gendarme" is not merely political, because Baghdad uses it to settle part of its economic hardships through "blackmailing," said Larijani.

"With Baghdad having tasted the sweet flavour of blackmailing, it is only the regional Arab states who are blamed in this regard," he added.

On the other hand, the article said, the Islamic revolution's struggle against U.S. hegemony is like "a blazing light whose rays have penetrated into each and every spot of the Muslim world," and will therefore not be put out.

"Consequently the healthy way (for littoral states) is to keep away from U.S. hegemony and not from Iran," it added.

He said the best bet to keep the region intact is a collective security policy which needs no gendarme, with littoral states solely responsible for Persian Gulf peace, "and not those outcasts who have come here from miles away."

"And most important of all, the rich resources of the region should be employed for the development of the Muslim world," concluded the Foreign Ministry adviser.

2d Phase of Gulf Naval Exercises Executed

LD2610172689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] The second phase of the operational maneuver of Paykan-1 was executed this morning in the Persian Gulf. According to a Central News Unit report, in that maneuver—which was observed by Brigadier General Shahbazi, joint chief of staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, and Rear Admiral Malekzadegan, commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy—at first the Navy's helicopters carried out mine-sweeping operations. Then vessels set out to collect mines in the area. Moreover, the units participating in that exercise fire at the positions of an imaginary enemy.

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD2710130789 Tehran IRNA in English 1300 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—The provisional Friday prayer leader of Tehran today warned against the Zionist regime's plot to destroy Al-Aqsa mosque and said, "Only the vigilance of Muslims in Lebanon and other parts of the world can foil the scheme."

"The Zionist regime has made a new and a very dangerous move under the pretext of erecting a statue of Prophet Solomon (peace be upon him) in Al-Aqsa mosque," Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani told the congregation.

Addressing a large gathering of worshippers at Tehran University campus, the ayatollah cautioned the Muslims that the Zionist regime intended to turn "this center of monotheism (Al-Aqsa mosque) into an anti-Islamic and anti-human center—a center for oppression and brutality."

He said, "The plot also aimed at turning the base into an anti-Moses (PBUH) [peace be upon him], anti-Jesus (PBUH), anti-Mohammad (PBUH) and anti-justice center so that the Zionists could fulfill their ambitions and impose them on the Islamic ummah.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani called on all Friday prayer leaders throughout the world to rise up against the conspiracy and force Muslim governments to protest the move.

Elsewhere in his sermons, the revered ayatollah sharply criticized recent decisions taken by the al-Ta'if conference and said, "the conference has delegated all the authority to a non-Muslim president who is also the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces."

A pre-sermon speaker at this week's Friday congregational prayers was prominent Lebanese alim Sayyid

Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah who called on world Muslims to unite and avoid schism. Fadlallah warned, "The (global) arrogance is trying to sow discord among us.... We should maintain Islamic unity which is based on our belief."

He said that it was incumbent upon all Muslims to follow the example set by the Islamic Republic of Iran and cooperate with one another to thwart U.S. cultural, economic and political warfare against the world of Islam.

Crude Oil Pipeline Project With Turkey Canceled

TA2510181189 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Cevat Taylan report from Tehran]

[Text] Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh announced in a news conference today that Iran is canceling the construction of a crude oil pipeline, one of two big projects comprising the cooperation between Turkey and Iran, on economic grounds. According to the project, Iranian crude oil was going to be transported to Western Europe via a pipeline through Turkey.

Referring to another joint project, which envisages the transportation of Iranian liquified natural gas to Western Europe via Turkey, Aqazadeh said that the realization of this project depends on prospective clients in Europe. He added: If we do find clients, transporting the natural gas via a pipeline over Turkey will be the most economic method.

In reply to a question, Aqazadeh said that the decision to cancel the crude oil pipeline project was not based on any political considerations.

Congress on Imam Reza Issues Statement

LD2110201389 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Oct. 21, IRNA—The 3rd international congress on Imam Reza (PBUH) [peace be upon him]—8th imam of the prophet's (PBUH) infallible household—released a 7-point statement at the end of its concluding session Friday night.

The 3-day meet, which reviewed the life and times of Imam Musa Ibn-Ja'far al-Kadhem (PBUH), the 7th imam of Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) infallible household, was attended besides Iranian officials, by scholars, 'ulema and other prominent figures from 14 countries.

Imam Musa (PBUH) lived in the second half of the 8th century, at a crucial period of history when although the Abbasid Empire was at its zenith, schism and discord had badly split the ummah.

It was the decadent age of the "'Arabian nights" and the imam had to undergo prolonged imprisonment and finally martyrdom at the hands of Harun al-Rashid for standing up for the pure pristine Islam of his ancestor, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The participants of the congress highlighted these points, and reiterated their obedience to Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i as the leader of the Islamic revolution.

The statement backed the leader's proposal for establishing an international unity centre to bring closer Muslim schools of thought through ideological discussions. The idea was suggested by Ayatollah Khamene'i earlier this week in his meeting with participants of the unity seminar in Tehran, where he said the Islamic Republic is ready to establish such a centre.

The statement also called for realizing the high ideals of the late leader Imam Khomeyni, and asked scientific, cultural and other related centres to promote his thoughts in order to uplift the intellectual and scientific knowledge of the Islamic ummah.

The congress backed Iran's efforts for implementation of U.N. Resolution 598, which seeks to end the Iraqi conflict.

Besides reiterating support for the oppressed Afghan, Lebanese, and Palestinian peoples, it condemned the execution of the 16 Kuwaiti hajj pilgrims by the Saudi regime last month.

The statement concluded by saying that it was time to end Saudi control over the Haramayn Sharifayn—Islam's two holiest sites in Mecca and Al-Madinah.

Radio, TV Stations Rebuilt in Ilam Province

LD2610133789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Reconstructuion work on the powerful television station in Ilam Province has ended. The station, named for Martyr Fereydum Karimi, was made operational this morning in the presence of Mohammad Hashemi, head of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Voice and Vision.

The Central News Unit reports that with the operation of this station, which possesses one 20-kw transmitter and two 10-kw transmitters, certain areas in Ilam and Bakhtaran Provinces—including Mehran, Dehloran, Malekshahi, Salehabad, Zarrinabad, Ilam, Ivan, (Tirvan-Karavol), Eslamabad-e Gharb, Sumar, Naft-Shahr, and Gilan-e Gharb—will receive the first and second networks of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Voice and Vision. The people of these regions can now receive the programs of the 2 stations on channels 4 and 10, respectively. The reconstruction of the station cost 260 million rials, both in rials and foreign exchange credits, and two FM radio transmitters have also been installed, each with 300 watts of power. By utilizing these transmitters, the first program of the Voice of the Islamic Republic, as well as the Voice of the television's first program, will be

heard on frequencies 100.1 and 94.1 mHz [frequencies as heard]. It is worth noting that Ilam's television station was repeatedly subjected to aerial attacks by the Iraqi regime during the course of the imposed war. Furthermore, it must be noted that the reconstruction, installation, and operation of all the equipment and technical instruments were carried out by engineers and experts of the technical unit of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mohammad Hashemi also inaugurated the new radio station at Ilam center. Please listen to our report.

[Unidentified correspondent] This morning Mr Hashemi broke the ground for the construction of the new radio and television station in Ilam center in a ceremony attended by local officials. The station will contain one main 17 kw transmitter and one standby 20 kw transmitter. Once this station becomes operational, all the areas of Ilam Province and most of Bakhtaran, Lorestan, and Khuzestan Provinces will receive programs of the second network of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The station will be constructed on 20 hectares, while the building site will cover 700sq meters. It is estimated that 150 million rials in foreign exchange credits will be spent to purchase technical equipment. The cost of buying the land for the station was paid for from provincial budget credits as well as the Voice and Vision's funds.

ETTELA'AT Comments on Economic Policies

NC2610213089 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 14 Oct 89 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "We Will Tread Our Own Path"]

[Excerpts] The path the government has chosen at this moment is one in which its principles and aspirations are being assessed and followed in accordance with facts and possibilities that actually exist, not on the basis of flights of fancy or fantasy removed from reality.

This is the path of guiding and mobilizing the material and moral forces of society to enable an independent and productive economy to flourish to the maximum. Therefore, it is necessary that all expectations and ideals be tailored to the special conditions and distinctive characteristics of a society which has just emerged from the trammels of an 8-year imposed war. [passage omitted].

Of course, it may be said that it is useful for us constantly to compare ourselves to this or that, the East or West. We belong to the Third World, the world of the victims of colonialism and war and of societies deprived of industry and technology. It would be more correct and beneficial to compare ourselves to ourselves. This means that we should review the destinies of the Easterners and Westerners in order to obtain experience and learn a lesson for future study and comparison. However, we should base our study of our history, culture, economy, and people on a comprehensive assessment and understanding of the realities of our country, society, and homeland.

We are neither East nor West. We do not tread this path or that. This is because the East and the West are themselves no longer what they were yesterday. The East is no longer in the era of Marx, Lenin, and Stalin and the West is no longer in the era of Abraham Lincoln, Eisenhower, and Truman. The truth is that the West is moving toward a sort of subliminal Western socialism, while the East is moving toward a subtle Eastern form of capitalism. [passage omitted]

Our government should place social welfare, economic independence, social justice, and the lofty Islamic values among the top priorities of its agenda. It should strive to ensure that the direction, ultimate assessment, and outcome of its social and political efforts are for the benefit of the majority of the deprived and oppressed people. On this path, those who are the most deprived, hardworking, and active should be given the greatest preference. [passage omitted]

Nepal

Kathmandu Claims India Closes Key Port Facility

BK2510015489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1852 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 24 (AFP)—India has closed the Budge Budge Dockyard at Calcutta, the only port made available to landlocked Nepal, a Nepalese official said here Tuesday. The official of the Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) said Nepal was orally informed Monday that the Budge Budge Dockyard had been closed since Friday.

The source said that two tankers containing oil and kerosene from Singapore landed at Calcutta on Friday, but were not allowed to unload. There were also reports that a coal tanker from Indonesia was similarly refused. (No Indian confirmation of the closing was immediately available. On July 31, Indian officials denied an earlier report that the facility had been closed.)

India and Nepal have been locked in a trade dispute since the expiry of trade and transit agreements in March. The dispute has seen India close all but two of the land routes from its territory into the landlocked Himalayan kingdom, causing acute shortages of fuel and basic goods, seriously disrupting Nepal's economy.

As news spread of the alleged port closure, car owners here immediately rushed to obtain their weekly fuel ration, which was cut from 20 liters to 15 liters in response to the alleged closure.

Officials of the NOC and the National Trading Corporation rushed to Calcutta to ask port authorities to permit the unloading of two tankers, containing 5,500 tonnes of kerosene and diesel, the source said, adding

that the shipment was enough to supply Nepal for another six-to-eight weeks of strict rationing.

Meanwhile, officials here said that Calcutta port authorities had also refused permission for the unloading of 5,500 tonnes of coal from Indonesia intended for Nepal.

The officials quoted Indian port authorities as telling the Nepalese Consulate at Calcutta that the coal's unloading was being refused to prevent the soiling of edible goods being imported for distribution during India's general election in November.

Li Peng's Official Visit Set for Nov 19-21

BK2710034489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0336 GMT 27 Oct 89

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 27 (AFP)—China's Premier Li Peng will pay a three-day official visit to Nepal starting November 19, the Nepalese Foreign Ministry has said. The visit will be the last leg of a South Asian tour to include stops in Pakistan and Bangladesh, officials said Thursday.

Mr Li will be met by Nepal's Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha and will have an audience with King Birendra during the visit, they added. Analysts here attributed economic and political significance to the planned visit, noting that it comes durign a period of strained relations between Nepal and India.

Nepal has been caught in an eight-month-old trade dispute with India since the two countries' trade and transit treaties expired in March. India closed most of the land routes from its territory into Nepal, causing acute economic problems and shortages of key goods such as fuel.

Mr Li is likely to be asked to consider whether China might supply petroleum products on a long-term basis by constructing a pipeline to Nepal via Tibet, officials said.

During April, when Nepal faced acute shortages of oil products after India's trade blockade, China supplied some 300 tonnes of diesel oil, petroleum, and kerosene, which was enough under strict rationing to support Nepal for three months. Nepal later airlifted an equivalent shipment from Bangladesh.

India has kept open only two of the 21 transit points between it and Nepal for goods moving to and from the port of Calcutta. Fuel has been imported from third countries through the facilities at Calcutta's Budge Budge dockyard, costing Nepal 20 per cent more than it would have for fuel carried by Indian trains.

Nepal has no refineries and has relied heavily on oil products from Singapore, storing them at the Budge Budge yard under contract with a private Indian businessman. China, along with Switzerland and the World Bank, is helping Nepal upgrade the 115-kilometre (70-mile) Kathmandu-Kodari Highway which links it with Lhasa. A source here said that authorities at the highest level were considering opening an additional transit point with Tibet so that goods could be moved even during monsoons and hard winters, when the road to Lhasa is normally closed for three to four months.

Beijing has awarded Kathmandu a 15 million U.S. dollar grant to set up a sugar factory that has begun trial production. Some 100 Chinese technicians are training Nepalese workers to run the facility.

China has also been helping to install a tyre factory in the Gurkha District, 120 kilometers (75 miles) west of Kathmandu, capable of satisfying 65 per cent of Nepal's demand, currently met largely by Indian imports. A segment of a 75-kilometre (45-mile) mountain road between Pokhara and Baglung has been completed with Chinese assistance, and China and Nepal recently completed building a small paper mill in southwestern Nepal that has a daily production capacity of 10 tonnes.

Beijing has pledged grants worth 10.3 million dollars for an international conference center in Kathmandu to be built with Chinese technical assistance.

Pakistan

Further on No-Confidence Motion Against Bhutto

Bhutto Says 'No Revolt' in PPP

BK2510124889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1208 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Oct 25 (AFP)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who is facing a no confidence motion, Wednesday [25 October] dismissed the opposition's claim that sectors of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) were in revolt. "There is absolutely no revolt in the party," she said at the ground-breaking ceremony for a new supreme court building.

She said she regretted that her coalition partner, the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), representing Urdu-speaking settlers from India, had "betrayed the PPP for petty benefits." But she said the PPP enjoyed a majority in the National Assembly even without the 14 MQM members. She acknowledged the opposition was "trying to hijack members of the National Assembly." But she added the efforts "would not succeed." [passage omitted]

Press reports said the opposition had picked up the support of independents and other Bhutto allies including some 20 "PPP dissidents." [passage omitted]

She declined comment when asked if the opposition IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance] had the blessings of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who differs with Ms. Bhutto on some constitutional issues. "People expect the president that he is above politics," she added.

Ms. Bhutto sought to dispel the impression of any rift in her party. "How could the people who struggled for party tickets in November polls betray the party at this crucial stage?" she said. Ms. Bhutto, 36, said the people who had been trying in the past to turn Pakistan into a "mafia state" were now conspiring against her elected government.

The PPP government was opposed to the revival of "the era of corruption of the past 11 years," she said in a direct reference to late President Mohammed Ziaul Haq's military rule. [passage omitted]

She said the opposition has resorted to all sorts of pressure tactics, including harassing and bribing MPs [members of Parliament] to muster support for the no confidence motion. Despite such heavy-handed tactics, she said she was confident her party would foil the motion.

Meanwhile, Information Minister Ahmad Saeed Awan in a separate statement Wednesday said the IJI had set up a "disinformation cell to mislead the people" into believing the PPP was losing public support.

More on Bhutto's Remarks

BK2510160989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, the prime minister said that the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] enjoys the majority in the National Assembly, and she is confident that the Assembly will again express its confidence in her. She said the opposition has resorted to unconstitutional, illegal, and immoral tactics to fulfill their political designs and to remove a popularly elected government. Benazir Bhutto said the PPP is being opposed to begin an era of corruption once again. The opposition is using all sorts of pressure tactics to win support for its no-confidence motion. It is harassing the National Assembly members and offering them bribes. This is being done not against her, but to destroy the democratic process. The prime minister said her party will boldly face the unhealthy activities of the opposition and will emerge triumphant.

Replying to a question about the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] breaking its alliance with the PPP, Benazir Bhutto said the government is in majority even without them. However, she added, the government has kept its doors open for negotiations with the MQM.

Answering another question, the prime minister said if necessary, the government will take the nation into confidence in connection with the opposition conspiracy which is not against her government but against the democracy in the country. She added that in spite of obstacles from the opposition, the PPP government has achieved clear results in solving the problems of the people and the country. In this context, she referred to the improvement in the financial situation. It was for the 1st time that no deficit was shown in the national budget, the prime minister added.

PPP Minister on 'Disinformation'

BK2510160589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Ahmed Syed Awan has said the opposition has launched a disinformation campaign to create a wrong impression against the popularity of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP]. Speaking to APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] he said members will never compromise on democratic principles and the security of the country. Ahmed Syed Awan said the Islamic Democratic Alliance [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad—IJI] has accepted the improper demands of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]. He said under the leadership of Punjab and in opposing the PPP, the IJI has compromised on the interests of the province.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, N.D. Khan, the prime minister's special assistant on political affairs, said the unified opposition wants to create disorder after destabilizing the present government. He said the unified opposition is creating a bad precedence by using mean methods to get the support of the National Assembly members. He said the people's elected representatives are being detained, which reflects that the opposition does not have confidence on its supporters.

Nawaz Sharif Supports Motion

BK2510153289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that the no-confidence motion against the prime minister is a democratic and constitutional issue. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad this evening, he said that if the prime minister proves the support of 119 members of the National Assembly within the next 24 hours, then the opposition will withdraw its motion.

Commenting on this statement, a spokesman of the prime minister's secretariat said that since the no-confidence motion has been moved by the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad, they should themselves prove the support of 119 members.

20 Sind Members Back Bhutto

BK2510162589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] A group of 20 MNA's [members of National Assembly] from Sind met the prime minister in Islamabad today. They reiterated their unflinching support and confidence in the leadership of Ms Benazir Bhutto in the face of the challenge of the no-confidence move by the opposition. They informed the prime minister of the

underhand means being employed by the Combined Opposition Parties to destabilize the democratic government.

Nine People's Party MNA's have expressed their determination to protect national integrity and the democratic setup. Addressing a joint press conference in Islamabad today at the residence of the federal minister, Rao Sikander Iqbal, they said the People's Party MNA's who had resisted 11 years of punishment, threats, and temptations were not at all a salable commodity. They said those who had no faith in the people's mandate and those who could never come into power were trying underhand tactics.

A group of six minority members in the National Assembly called on the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, in Islamabad today and expressed their unflinching confidence in her leadership.

Admissibility of Motion Discussed

BK2610052789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] The National Assembly is resuming its session in Islamabad this morning after a day's break. It will discuss the admissibility of a motion to move a no-confidence resolution against the government. After discussing the admissibility of the motion, the Assembly will vote on it. The vote will take place no earlier than 3 days from today and no later than a week. After discussing the motion, the house will take up legislative business.

The secretary of the National Assembly Secretariat has stated that entry to the parliament building will be allowed to members of the National Assembly, senators, chief ministers, members of the provincial assemblies, and members of the assembly's staff who possess national identity cards. Those who do not have Assembly passes will not be allowed to enter the parliament building; nor will they be allowed to enter a 1-mile radius around the building. A National Assembly Secretariat notification states that in view of the limited seats in the press gallery of the [National Assembly], 150 seats have been reserved for media representatives for the remaining period of the assembly session. The seats will be allotted on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Speaker Sets 1 Nov for Vote

BK2610082889 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] The National Assembly took up for discussion on the resolution moved by the opposition for a vote of no-confidence against the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto. The resolution was moved by Chowdhury Abdul Gaffoor of IJI [Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad—Islamic Democratic Alliance] under Article 95-1 of the Constitution, and 98 members of the combined opposition stood up to support its admission. Three members of the opposition, however, did not support the move.

The speaker, Malik Mairaj Khalid, then announced that he was fixing Wednesday, the 1st of next month for taking up the no-confidence resolution for discussion. He said equal number of members from both sides will speak on the resolution and their names will be decided in consultations with the treasury and the opposition benches.

The speaker requested the two sides to keep decorum and dignity of the House in view and abstain from personal attacks and mutual discrimination. The members will have to confine their speeches to a fixed time limit. The speaker said motions for confidence or no confidence are not only in the democratic and parliamentary system which has been established in the country after a long and arduous struggle. What is important for us is to prove that we are capable of running the system successfully.

He underlined the importance of mutual restraint and strict observance of rules of the (?game) by all the sides concerned. Today, when the political parties are free to work according to democratic traditions we have to come to the expectations of the nation which wants democracy to succeed in the country. He said we must be not only [word indistinct] set example outside the House. The House was now adjourned to meet again on Sunday [29 October] afternoon at 1630.

135 Members To Vote Against

BK2610094889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0900 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] will continue to follow the principle of decency in politics and will not indulge in undemocratic means. She stated this while presiding over a meeting of the PPP Parliamentary Party meeting in Parliament House in Islamabad this morning.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, the minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr Ahmed Syed Awan, said the prime minister said the PPP would not submit to opposition pressure. He said 114 members took part in today's meeting. These included four members of the Islamic Democratic Alliance [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad—IJI] and five members from the Federally Administrated Tribal Areas. Five PPP members, however, could not attend today's meeting as they were busy in some important work. He was confident that 135 members would vote against the no-confidence motion of the opposition. He added we are also in touch with some of the IJI members and independent members to support the government.

Mr Ahmed Syed Awan said the PPP members told the meeting that they had been made hefty and handsome offers to buy their allegiance. They, however, reaffirmed their pledge to support the prime minister in any circumstances. He said the IJI members were brought to the National Assembly in rented coaches, while the PPP members came voluntarily. He alleged that the Punjab

and Baluchistan administrations were harassing the PPP members. Mr Ahmed Syed Awan said that nobody was allowed to enter the Punjab House in Rawalpindi and barbed wire had been erected around the hotels in Murree where the National Assembly members were staying. He condemned the incident at Murree yesterday where the television crew members were beaten up while they were trying to cover the IJI meeting.

The minister of state described reports regarding the stoppage of water supply to the Punjab House as propaganda and said the Punjab government itself controlled the water supply.

Bhutto Sees Defeat of Motion

BK2610104289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has reiterated her conviction that the no-confidence motion tabled by the opposition will be defeated by the grace of God, the strength of the people, and the support of the elected members.

Addressing a news conference in her chamber in the Parliament House today, the prime minister said the Pakistan People's Party, which was in the forefront in the struggle during the dictatorial period, will once again be successful in the test of proving its majority in the National Assembly.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said if the opposition succeeds in winning more than 100 votes in favor of their move, she will be astonished. She made it clear that the person who was elected by the opposition as a moderate leader was rejected by the people of his own area and he reached the House with the help of a friend. Now, his patron has joined the Pakistan People's Party and therefore, the only thing for him to do is to resign his membership, if he has moral courage.

The prime minister said she believes the no-confidence motion is not in consonance with the parliamentary traditions but the result of a deep-rooted conspiracy against the stability and security of the country.

More on Bhutto's News Conference

BK2610160489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has restated her firm conviction that the Pakistan People's Party, which led the struggle for democracy during dictatorial period, will once again be successful in its present test of proving its majority in the National Assembly. She was addressing a news conference in her chamber in Parliament House today.

The prime minister said it may perhaps be the sole incident in the whole world where a provincial government is attempting to make a federal government unstable and unsuccessful. She said, however, that this sort of conspiracy will fail. She said the entire administrative machinery of a province is being utilized to destabilize an elected government of the people. Heavy bribes are being offered to buy the loyalty of the National Assembly members. Such large amounts of money may come either from the narcotics trade or from the embezzlement of the provincial funds. She expressed the hope that the elected representatives of the people will not yield to the temptation of wealth.

Ms Benazir Bhutto described the opposition move as the conspiracy against the stability and security of the country. In reply to a question she said she does not have anything to do with the move and that ever since she took up the reins of administration, she has been faced with such moves. She said those who are not happy with the restoration of democracy are not able to face reality and are busy hatching conspiracies, one after another. [passage omitted]

Minister Claims Opposition Support

BK2610054089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] In a statement in Islamabad, Federal Minister Mohammad Hanif Khan has claimed the support of some Islamic Democratic Alliance members of the National Assembly who, he says, will oppose the no-confidence motion against the prime minister. He said the motion has been initiated by antidemocratic forces in the country.

The general secretary of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP], Sheikh Rafiq Ahmad, has said the the no-confidence motion against the federal government is being backed by antidemocratic forces, the drug mafia, and the remnants of martial law. Speaking at a function in Lahore, he said the PPP government, which is determined to eliminate the drug mafia from society, will frustrate the motion.

Opposition Head Claims PPP Support

BK2610054889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Ghulam Haider Wyne, secretary general of the Punjab wing of the Pakistan Muslim League, has claimed the support of some ministers and officeholders belonging to the Pakistan People's Party in connection with the no-confidence motion. He made this claim in a press release issued at a gathering of members of the National Assembly in Islamabad yesterday.

Shiite Leader, Others Oppose Motion

BK2610060889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Agha Syed Hamid Ali Shah Musavi, the chief of the the Movement for the Enforcement of the Shiite Faith, has strongly criticized the no-confidence motion of the opposition parties against the democratically

elected prime minister. In a statement in Rawalpindi yesterday, he said the people only wish to see the democratic process flourishing.

Rasul Bux Palijo, the secretary general of the Awami National Party, has appealed to political leaders and members of the National Assembly not to associate themselves with the Muhajir Qaumi Movement and Islamic Democratic Alliance groups both inside or outside the parliament. In telegrams sent to the heads of political parties and other leaders, he alleged that the agreement between these two groups was against democracy, the rule of law, and peace.

Sardar Shaukat Hyat Khan, a prominent politician, has urged the opposition parties to rise above personal differences and not to press their no-confidence against the federal government. In a statement released in Islamabad yesterday, he said the elected parties should be allowed to rule for their full term and a close watch be kept on unpatriotic elements.

Opposition Denies Bribing Members

BK2610163889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] The Islamic Democratic Alliance [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad—IJI] leaders, Chaudhury Shujat Hussain and Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, have denied allegations that the IJI is spending millions of rupees on National Assembly members for votes in favor of the no-confidence motion. They have also said it is not true that the IJI is offering 3 million rupees to members who will go abroad on the day set for the no-confidence motion and 2 million rupees to those who will not attend the session on that day.

Assembly Members Criticize Motion

BK2710154489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] Three members of the National Assembly, Syed Makhdoom Ahmad Alam Anwar, Raees Shabir Ahmad, and Mian Ghulam Mohammad Ahmad Maneka, have said that the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto at this juncture is not in the interest of the country. They said the move was likely to lead to chaos and violence as a result of polarization and confrontation among the people. They appealed to parliamentarians to transcend political affiliations because progress and law and order are at stake. They should safeguard the institutions of democracy and the well-being of future generations.

National Assembly member Mr Ashiq Mohammad Khan Mazari said the no-confidence motion against the elected prime minister was a conspiracy against democracy and the stability of the country. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, he said the motion only proved that those who supported martial law had no love for democracy. He was confident that with the support of the people and their elected representatives, the Pakistan People's Party would face this challenge successfully and it would increase the prestige of Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto. Mr Ashiq Mohammad Khan Mazari criticized the Punjab chief minister for conspiring against the prime minister and trying to weaken the federation. He said this had never happened in the country's history.

Coalition Split Prompts 'Radical Change' in Sind

BK2710032889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0237 GMT 27 Oct 89

[By Shamin Ur Rahman]

[Text] Karachi, Oct 27 (AFP)—A pivotal immigrant party's break with the Bhutto government and alliance with the opposition has created an unpredictable situation in Pakistan's troubled Sind Province.

Some analysts fear the rupture between the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) could sharpen the ethnic divide in Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's home province.

But her rival and possible successor, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, himself a Sindhi, says he believes that his main opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] would bring stability if she were voted out next week. The vote on a no-confidence motion brought by the IJI-led opposition could take place as early as Wednesday, when it has been scheduled for debate. Regardless of the outcome of the no-confidence move, the political alignment is likely to undergo a radical change in Sind.

Ms. Bhutto has been under intense pressure from radical elements on various issues, including the thorny question of implementing the PPP-MQM accord signed in December last year aimed at meeting the economic and political demands of Sind's Urdu-speaking Muhajir settlers from India.

The "Karachi accord" promised the repatriation of the Biharis, sometimes called the "stranded Pakistanis," living in Bangladesh, but it has been unable to fulfil the pledge fearing renewed polarisation amid strong opposition from nationalists in the PPP who speak for the rights of the native Sindhis. The Biharis, numbering some 200,000 camp dwellers, would have allied themselves with the MQM, already fighting for increased job opportunities for Muhajirs.

Makhdoom Khaliquzzaman, along with other "disgruntled" PPP deputies, was expected to support the opposition's move. But he realigned himself with Ms. Bhutto after IJI President Nawaz Sharif's open support for the MQM leader Altaf Hussain against the Sind nationalist movement.

Analysts said this could help mute the hostile attitude of the radical Sindhi nationalists, grouped in the Sindh National Alliance (SNA), when the PPP was deserted by MQM and the nationalists.

Although the leadership of both the PPP and MQM have pledged to follow a constitutional path and have asked their followers to exercise restraint, there is fear of a backlash as defiant noises have been heard from each side.

The new IJI-MQM pact is also significant because Sind is the only province where the PPP had a solid majority and formed its own government. While the IJI failed to get a single seat in the provincial assembly in the last November's polls, the PPP was lacking representation in the two major cities of Karachi and Hyderabad.

The abrogated Karachi accord was dictated by necessity, enabling the provincial government to have urban representation, observers said. But the pact between the IJI and the MQM would deprive Ms. Bhutto's party of that representation, they said.

Some analysts said the IJI-MQM pact was to the IJI's advantage, as most of the agreements between them fell under the jurisdiction of the provincial government. They also said an IJI-led central government would have difficulty meeting the agreement's terms without reconciling with the Sind government led by the PPP.

While the PPP is isolated for the moment, the MQM's options for future cooperation with the ruling party also appear slim. MQM leaders expressed confidence in what they termed the party's more "positive and constructive" role in national politics, but analysts said the MQM's possibilities were limited in Ms. Bhutto's home province, where mistrust among Muhajirs, Punjabis, Pathans and Sindhis has caused bloody ethnic riots.

"Both the PPP and MQM lost opportunities to heal the wounds," a pro-government intellectual commented on the parties' split. Observers said that a feeling of "betrayal" caused by the breaking of the Karachi accord could antagonise the PPP's radical workers.

Sind Chief Minister on MQM Position

BK2710090189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] The Sind chief minister, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, has stated: We have been sincerely implementing the Karachi accord [on Pakistan People's Party cooperation] with the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] and he could not find any reason or justification why MQM decided to part. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad yesterday, he said: We would unilaterally take all the steps agreed upon in the accord in the interest of the people of Sind, whether there is an accord or not.

Replying to a question, the chief minister said the Pakistan People's Party was still ready to talk to the MQM. He said: Had we known that they were displeased, we would have gone personally to open a dialogue with them. He expressed the hope that the MQM's decision would not pose a threat to the law and order situation in Sind.

The minister of state for science and technology, Mr Javed Jabbar, has said the present government led by Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto had tried to fulfill its mandate with the supreme purpose of improving internal cohesion and the durability of the federation. In a statement in Islamabad yesterday, he said the no-confidence motion of the opposition against the prime minister may be constitutional, but it was against the spirit of the Constitution.

Minister of State for Labor, Manpower Fired

BK2510154589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] It has been officially stated in Islamabad that the prime minister has dismissed Tariq Magsi, the minister of state for labor and manpower, from the federal cabinet for violating the oath of allegiance to the high office of the minister of state. Magsi had told the government of Pakistan that the opposition party had contacted him to seek his support in its favor during the voting in connection with the no-confidence motion against the government. He had stated that he would remain with the government only if his status was elevated to the post of a federal minister within 24 hours and he was provided with a Pagero jeep and 20 million rupees.

The official announcement adds that because the government does not believe in the politics of bribery and corruption, the prime minister has therefore ordered the dismissal of Tariq Magsi from the Federal Cabinet.

Narcotics Board Breaks Up Drug Smuggling Group

BK2410163889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Pakistan Narcotics Control Board has busted a narcotics smuggling group, which was involved in smuggling heroin to European countries. According to board sources, along with his accomplices, the owner of a moneychanger's shop in Rawalpindi, Karamath Bin Qureshi, was actively involved in smuggling heroin to Britain and other European countries. According to a tip-off by the French police, a case has been registered against the accused and he was arrested after getting evidence of his involvement in the smuggling.

'Agreement' With USSR on Afghanistan Viewed

BK1810133989 Lahore JANG in Urdu 4 Oct 89 p 3

[Editorial: "The Afghan Issue: Pakistan-USSR Understanding?"]

[Text] Reports received from UN Headquarters create the impression that an agreement has been reached between Pakistan and the USSR on a resolution on the Afghanistan issue which was presented at the current General Assembly session. The meeting between the foreign ministers of Pakistan and the Soviet Union is particularly referred to in this context. The statement of Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan that his meeting with Shevardnadze was very satisfactory also appeared in the press. Press reports have also attributed to Sahabzada Yaqub Khan the following words:

"Both of us are well aware of the importance of a comprehensive and peaceful settlement and we feel that it will be appropriate to adopt the path of a peaceful [political] settlement instead of a military solution of the issue." The foreign minister added that the two sides agreed to continue negotiations for a solution which is acceptable to the majority of Afghan people.

Both Pakistan and the Soviet Union's concern with the Afghanistan issue is as obvious as daylight. Being neighbors of Afghanistan, it is also natural for Pakistan and the USSR to have an interest in the solution of the Afghan problem.

However, the fact that Pakistan and the USSR hold widely different views on the Afghanistan issue is also conspicuous to the whole world. It will rather be more appropriate to say that the positions of the two countries on the issue are, in fact, totally contradictory. Pakistan has always emphasized that the decision on the future of Afghanistan should be made by the people of that country by freely expressing their opinion, and that there should no external interference at all in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani position is that the regime in Kabul, which has been established with Soviet military assistance, is illegal. Therefore, no durable solution of the Afghanistan crisis is possible until that regime is abolished. The Soviet Union, however, considers the Kabul administration (according to its own standard) a fair, legal, and representative government of the Afghan people. The USSR also considers it its legal right to assist that regime by whatever means because of the existence of some agreements between the two countries. Except for some minor topics, Pakistan and the USSR still adhere to their respective stands.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has time and again categorically stated that no durable solution of the Afghanistan problem is possible without removing the puppet regime in Kabul. Given these irrefutable facts, it is difficult to comprehend the nature of the reported understanding following the meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries and what benefit will be accrued from it. An agreement on a draft resolution of the UN General Assembly is a different matter. Such agreements also emerged in the past on several occasions, but whatever resulted from these agreements is not concealed from anyone.

Undoubtedly, the continued chaos in Afghanistan will remain as a cause of direct concern for Pakistan. Pakistan, therefore, wants an early settlement of the issue. With this objective in view, we may make proposals to the Afghan resistance leaders which we feel are appropriate, while simultaneously continuing negotiations with powers supporting the Kabul regime. Despite all this, we should never forget, even for a moment, that a genuine settlement of the Afghan issue will truly enjoy the approval and support of real representatives of the Afghan people. We feel that the most important thing at the moment is to determine who are the real representatives of the Afghan people. Therefore, the forces having an interest in a just solution to the Afghan issue should give utmost attention to this matter during the current General Assembly session.

Sri Lanka

Government Denies Recognition of Tamil 'Army'

BK2710112089 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Excerpts] On the recommendation of the presidential task force on land utilization and distribution, an emergency regulation has been promulgated with effect from 12 noon today. This will prohibit the regularization on any encroachments on state or private land that will take place from midday today. [passage omitted]

Cabinet spokesman Minister of Foreign Affairs and State Minister for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne outlined the purpose of appointing the presidential task force on national land utilization and distribution this morning. The main purpose of this is to make maximum use of available land. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question, the minister said the Government of Sri Lanka does not recognize any Tamil national army. Authorities were questioned and it was revealed that it was the Civil Volunteer Force, the CVF, that is there in Amparai.

Northeast Chief Says Amparai District Peaceful

BK2710125889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] The chief minister of Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, has said the de-induction of PKF [Peacekeeping Force] from Amparai District is now complete and the situation there is peaceful. He told AIR [All India Radio] correspondent in Jaffna today that the Citizen Volunteer Force and the Sri Lankan police, now in the control of provincial government, are deployed to maintain law and order in the area. He said the second phase of de-induction of PKF would be decided at a meeting to be held in Colombo next week.

SLMC Leader Denies Providing Arms to Muslims

BK2410113989 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] The Sri Lanka Muslim Congress [SLMC] leader, M.H.M. Ashraf, MP [member of Parliament], has denied allegations that his party was providing arms to Muslims. He said in a statement that in their view this allegation was part and parcel of a continuous conspiracy against the SLMC. He said that his party was not only concerned with the security of Muslims but also of all Lankans, be they Sinhala or Tamils. It was their party policy in the context of the present problems that all Lankans over the age of 16 should be provided with military training by the state for self-defense. He said that their election manifesto called for a national defense academy and that these measures were necessary as the state could not afford every citizen's physical protection.

Mr Ashraf said that the 17 SLMC Northeast provincial councillors had not been provided with security given to other MP's and provincial councillors, and alleged that that was a clear case of discrimination. The statement assured the SLMC's commitment to the democratic process and said the party was working hard toward building up a Lankan identity enabling all communities to live in a peaceful and friendly atmosphere.

Junior Minister Hints of Cabinet Reshuffle

BK2710101689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1007 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] Colombo, Oct 27 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa could seek to strengthen his position by shuffling members of the Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) [People's Liberation Front] rebel group into his cabinet, a junior minister suggested Friday [27 October].

"The president must have a good team to foil attempts to put him out," Junior Information Minister A.J. Ranasinghe, who is considered close to the president, told a press conference. Using cricket terminology, he added: "The president may get some new players, who can bat well and score runs, even from the JVP." In the process, he may remove "some of the old and bad batsmen" from the cabinet, Mr. Ranasinghe said.

A cabinet reshuffle could help ease the disaffection of the JVP, the main Sinhalese rebel group, the minister suggested. "Maybe" JVP members "are not happy with the players," he said, referring to the current cabinet ministers.

Cooperation with the JVP was possible because they came from the same social "class" as President Premadasa, the minister said. He described Mr. Premadasa as "the man who came from the slums of Pettah," Colombo's commercial centre.

On the same theme, he branded as "class struggle" opposition attempts to change Sri Lanka's presidential system of government back to the British-style parliamentary system previously in place.

Mr. Ranasinghe said the current conflict in Sri Lanka was between the "haves and the have-nots," with the opposition fighting to regain its former privileges. "This system is the best for Sri Lanka," he said, adding that under the Westminister system the prime minister was subject to pressure from the members of parliament.

In response to opposition demands, the government has agreed to hold a referendum on the continuance of the presidential system on condition that the rebels give up violence and allow peace to return to the island.

Heroin Seizures Over Past 4 Months Noted

BK2710121189 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] The customs department has seized 21,150 grams of heroin worth more than 8.8 million rupees in their investigative operations during the last 4 months of this year. A large number of detentions were made at the Katunayake International Airport, and all these stocks of heroin were destroyed and the drug traffickers have been prosecuted. The customs department has deployed a special team of officials to conduct raids to arrest the drug traffickers.

Editorial Urges Action Against 'Drug Barons'

BK2310012289 Colombo SUN in English 9 Oct 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Deal With the Barons"]

[Text] Over 40,000 Lankans are victims of narcotics addiction. And the numbers are on the rise as the nation remains one of the biggest escape routes of hard core drugs in Asia.

The disclosures made in the "WEEKEND" yesterday are most disturbing. The narcotics syndrome has evidently grown into monstrous proportions while the remedies and offensives to curb the menace have not been effective enough. Obviously the mafia-style syndicates and those who deal in narco-terror have made steady advances in their deplorable activities while the enforcers have remained badly affected by a multitude of maladies.

The country engulfed as it is in political turmoil and militarist violence as government troops wage a shadow war against rebels, the ongoing narcotics problem has taken a second place on the list of priorities.

It is most regrettable. For the high levels of addiction among the nation's youth will have a more devastating effect on the country's future than any political revolt.

The anti-narcotic agencies have in a recent report hinted about plans to introduce fresh legislations to deal with the crisis which would include confiscation of properties

of the drug smugglers and other violators of the Narcotics Ordinance as well as mandatory rehabilitation programmes.

Sri Lanka's anti-drug laws needless to say have the most tough penalties one could think of. For instance anybody convicted of having in their possession two grammes of heroin will face the death penalty. But that has hardly acted as an effective deterrent in this country as the menace of narcotics sale and distribution seems to thrive.

The relevant authorities and the government in particular must take a serious view of this lamentable situation. It is obvious that the laws are being followed more in the breach while the "drug barons" have a field day. It is hardly a secret that some of the big-time narcotics "traders" enjoy some degree of influence and patronage of the officialdom thus giving them a kind of immunity to carry on their diabolic operations.

How can anyone believe that the narcotics trade in Lanka is done by a set of small-time crooks who get caught now and then with a condom full of "kudu" [as published] on his person.

Today in Lanka the heroin racket is more sophisticated in its very operation, with syndicates having mafia-type links abroad.

Unless the local collaborators and their foreign contacts are roped in without fear or favour the situation will aggravate to a level that we would be faced with a "Colombia-style" tragedy.

The government must take a political decision to crackdown firmly on the drug menace. A special task force must be trained and deployed instead of depending on the regular poorly-manned enforcement agencies to deal with the problem. It will always be a futile exercise as the barons have the funds and the organisation to outsmart the officials.

What is needed is a new and a more dedicated offensive with strong political resolve.